



Use of antimicrobials in animals further reduced

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Today, 15 October 2018, the European Medicines Agency published its 8th report on the European Surveillance of **Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption** (ESVAC).

Antimicrobials are very valuable medicines for the treatment of infectious diseases. The downside of using these medicines is the risk that disease agents develop mechanisms to defend themselves against the medicine, making the medicine less effective. In order to keep antimicrobials effective, they should be used carefully and not be overused or misused.

Today's report highlights a **decrease by more than 20% of the overall sales** of veterinary antimicrobials across Europe between 2011 and 2016. Special good news in the report is the reduction in use of antimicrobials that are considered as **critical** for the treatment of human patients. The use of colistin, an antimicrobial that only very recently is considered as critical, went down by almost 40%. The use of other critical antimicrobials went down by around 15%.

Since infectious diseases in people and animals are often the same or very similar they can be treated with the same medicines. In this "**One Health**" context it is important to use the medicines prudently in both humans and in animals. The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is strongly committed to the "One Health" approach and the responsible use of antimicrobials. Over the years FVE has taken many actions to promote responsible use, such as awareness campaigns, guidelines, and policy papers.

FVE welcomes the report and the impressive results, which reflect the efforts made by the veterinary profession. That has now resulted in the important reduction of antibiotic sales as presented in the reports. FVE congratulates all One Health actors who managed to ensure good health and welfare through responsible use of antimicrobials.

The next goal is to get a better insight in antibiotic use per animal species. FVE aims to further reduce the use of antimicrobials, and especially to support high usage countries in their efforts.

This ESVAC report covers data from 30 European countries. It confirms the decreasing trend in the use of antimicrobials in animals from previous reports. FVE is an ESVAC partner.

Total reduction of sales of veterinary antimicrobials between 2011 and 2016:

- Overall sales -20%
- Colistin -40%
- Third and 4th generation Cephalosporins -15.4%
- Fluoroquinolones -13.6%

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of 44 veterinary organisations from 38 European countries, representing a total of around 240 000 veterinarians. The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) strives to promote animal health, animal welfare and public health across Europe.

For further information, consult the FVE website www.fve.org
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- ESVAC Press release: https://www.ema.europa.eu/documents/press-release/sales-antibiotics-use-food-producing-animals-drop-across-eu_en.pdf
- 8th ESVAC report: https://www.ema.europa.eu/documents/report/sales-veterinary-antimicrobial-agents-30-european-countries-2016-trends-2010-2016-eighth-esvac_en.pdf
- FVE leaflets on responsible use: <http://fve.org/veterinary/medicines.php#18>
- FVE/FECAVA poster responsible antimicrobial use in companion animals: http://fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/recommendations_appropriate_antimicrobial_therapy.pdf