



Coombefield Farm Department
Newsletter
February 2017



Are you antibiotic aware?

Responsible use of antimicrobials in veterinary practice

There is an increasing pressure on the food producing industry to reduce the use of antimicrobials and to make the choice of which products to use based on available evidence.

This means that we all need to be more aware of which products we use and why we use them. The aim needs to be to avoid the need to use antibiotics as much as possible. This can be done by; using vaccines, altering management practices, using non-antibiotic alternatives (for example teat-sealants) or improving the disease diagnosis. For certain diseases the use of antibiotics is not required, purely treating the symptoms can be appropriate.

In today's farming practice it is vital to focus on disease control and eradication through Herd Health Planning, vaccination programmes, improving management and culling infected animals. These measures do rely on an understanding of the disease involved and the farm specific problems.

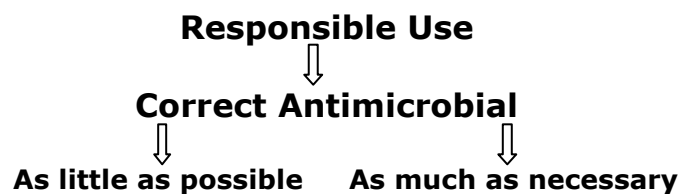
As responsible farmers and vets we all need to ensure that we keep control of the medicines we use. If we don't use antibiotics and other veterinary medicines appropriately and responsibly we risk losing the ability to use certain products. The current drive to reduce antibiotic dry cow tube usage is the beginning of much tighter controls to come.

This process is an opportunity for the industry to improve disease control, thus reducing cost and improving productivity.

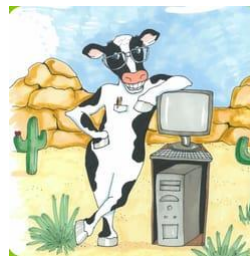
As a practice we will become stricter in the products that we will allow farmers to just pick-up without seeing the animals that are to be treated. The reason for this is that we are also monitored for the antibiotics we supply. However, the main reason is to enter into a process of reducing disease incidence on your farms. Reviewing the medicine usage is already a part of every Herd Health Plan review, and this will become more important in the future.

There are a few points to consider in this:

- Working together with our farmers to avoid the need for antimicrobials
- Avoiding inappropriate use
- Choosing the right drug for the right bug
- Monitoring antimicrobial sensitivity
- Minimising use
- Accurate recording of usage



Ordering Medicines



Please can we remind you to phone or email us with any order for medicines at least 24 hours before you plan to collect them. This is so that the reception team can ask a vet if the requested medicines are appropriate for the intended use or location.

We can only provide medicine to animals under our care. For those animals to be under our care we must see them on your farm at least once a year.

An ideal time for a sheep or beef cattle farmer would be on an annual visit a month before lambing or calving. This visit could then include a health plan and management advise



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FARM DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

If you would like to speak to a Farm vet or arrange a visit, **please call 01297 630515**

Medicines can be requested via email or by telephone

Email: farm@axvets.co.uk