

# We are proud antibiotic caretakers



**NZVA**  
New Zealand Veterinary Association

Effective antibiotics have been a key factor in living longer and healthier.

Very few issues globally are of greater importance than antibiotic resistance.

That's why our veterinarians, working where animals, humans and the environment meet, are leading the way in responsible use of these critical medicines in animals.

The New Zealand Veterinary Association has set an aspirational vision for the future:

By 2030 New Zealand Inc. will not need antibiotics for the maintenance of animal health and wellness.

## What is our approach?

**Recognition** – We have recognised that a problem of antibiotic resistance exists that we all have to solve.

**Responsibility** – We are providing leadership through the careful and responsible use of antibiotics for animals.

**Reduction** – We are taking steps to reduce or not use certain types of antibiotics.

**Refinement** – We are using antibiotics in smarter ways.

**Replacement** – We want to maintain animal health and wellbeing without antibiotics.

**Review** – We review what we are doing, learn lessons and look for new opportunities.

## What you can do to help:

- **Be aware:** New Zealand is one of the lowest users of antibiotics in animals in the world, but there is growing concern internationally about the use of antibiotics in farming systems and their future effectiveness.
- **Listen to advice:** You and your veterinarian have joint responsibility to make sure any treatments for your animals are effective. If you administer antibiotic treatments, ask for training to make sure you are doing it correctly and follow all the storage and administration instructions.
- **Work together:** All those involved in livestock farming have a responsibility to improve effectiveness of disease control programmes – to reduce the need for antimicrobials, and to improve animal welfare.
- **Prevention is best:** Antimicrobial usage for livestock is just one part of an integrated disease control programme. Effective disease control requires careful attention to a range of farm practices, including biosecurity measures, hygiene, disinfection procedures, good animal nutrition, appropriate housing, close herd/flock monitoring and staff/management training.

For more information please visit:

[nzva.org.nz/amr](http://nzva.org.nz/amr)

### About the New Zealand Veterinary Association

The New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) is the only membership association representing New Zealand veterinarians. With over 2000 members we are the leading voice for veterinarians working in all disciplines where animals, humans and the environment intersect.



Insight into Antimicrobial Resistance: Our Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy Group provides an informed consensus view on issues of scientific and public concern in the areas of public health, food safety, animal health, animal welfare and the environment which relate to antimicrobial use in animals. We believe the veterinary profession is integral to improving animal health, well-being and the status of animals in our society whether companion, production, wildlife, research or sport and recreation.