

Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship Policy

POLICY SUMMARY: This policy provides the framework for how the antimicrobial stewardship program operates in veterinary practices. This program aims to promote the optimal use of antimicrobial agents by veterinarians in order to maximise effectiveness and minimise the potential for drug resistance.

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Antimicrobial resistance is a global health emergency. The purpose of the antimicrobial stewardship policy is to improve veterinary antimicrobial stewardship and encourage appropriate antimicrobial use in line with the recommendations set out in the Implementation Plan for the National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy (2015-2019).

2. POLICY

- 2.1 Veterinarians and human healthcare professionals share the responsibility to prevent the development and transmission of multi-drug resistant organisms by ensuring that effective education and training in appropriate antimicrobial use is undertaken (Objective 1).
- 2.2 Veterinarians will implement antimicrobial stewardship practices (Objective 2).
- 2.3 Veterinarians will have access to current, evidence based antimicrobial use guidelines, and/or locally endorsed guidelines (Objective 2.1).
- 2.4 Veterinarians will promote the awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance in animals (Objective 1.2).
- 2.5 Veterinarians will institute infection prevention and biosecurity measures in their practices to prevent infections and the spread of antimicrobial resistance (Objective 4.5).
- 2.6 Veterinarians will provide science based advice to their clients on infection prevention and biosecurity measures to prevent infections and the spread of antimicrobial resistance (Objective 4.5).

3. ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES

- 3.1 Veterinary antimicrobial stewardship program
- 3.2 AVA Personal Biosecurity Guidelines

4. REFERENCES

- 4.1 [ACSQHC Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Hospitals](#)
- 4.2 [Antimicrobial stewardship in outpatient settings: A systematic review](#)