

Fighting antimicrobial resistance as a **pet owner**

Antimicrobials, including antibiotics, help animals and humans live longer and healthier lives. But many of these life-saving drugs are losing their effectiveness as the microbes they target develop resistance. The phenomenon is known as “antimicrobial resistance” or AMR.

AMR can greatly affect the health, treatment options, and overall well-being of our pets. As these animals often live in our houses and in close contact with our families, appropriate use of antibiotics can also ensure that our family members remain healthy and that these vital drugs remain effective for future generations.

You can play a role in curbing AMR by following these recommendations when antibiotics are prescribed to your animals:

Do

- Buy antibiotics only from authorised sources and retailers.
- Give the antibiotic to your animal as instructed by your vet, respecting:



E.g:

Dose
1 pill



Frequency
Every
8 hours



Route of
administration
Oral



Duration of
treatment
7 days

- Store the medication as described.
- Call your vet if you notice any side effects.
- Attend follow-up checks with your vet if required.
- Return unused or expired antibiotics to your veterinarian or local pharmacy.



Do not

- Give antibiotics to your animals without a veterinary prescription.
- Save or reuse expired or leftover antibiotics.
- Stop the treatment without checking first with your veterinarian, even if your pet appears better.
- Flush antibiotics down the toilet or sink, or throw them in the trash.



Prevention is better than cure!

Vaccines help prevent diseases that might otherwise require antibiotic treatment. By reducing the occurrence of these diseases, we can decrease the need for antibiotics and combat the growing issue of AMR.

