

RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS FOR VETS AND PET OWNERS



FOR PET OWNERS

There are only three times when antibiotic use is necessary:

1. **When a definite bacterial infection is present**
(e.g. as part of treatment for a cat bite abscess where pus is visible);
2. **Where infection may not be present but is highly likely to develop**
(e.g. right after a cat fight; or a critically ill patient with a weakened immune system);
3. **Where an infection could lead to total catastrophe**
(THIS IS RARE: e.g. a patient undergoing total hip replacement – infection can cause surgical disaster).

Antibiotics are only effective in treating bacterial infections.

Always talk to your vet about the need for responsible antibiotic use



VETERINARY STAFF

Inappropriate antibiotic use is one of the factors that accelerates antimicrobial resistance and the emergence of resistant strains of bacteria in animals

Proper management of antibiotic use can reduce the incidence of infection by resistant bacteria

Antibiotics should not be prescribed for primarily empirical reasons

Infection must be correctly diagnosed using clinical signs, cytology and, where appropriate, culture. Generally, use of narrow-spectrum antibiotics is less likely to lead to resistant strains in a wound than use of broad spectrum antibiotics.

It is important to explain to pet owners in a clear and understanding way why an antibiotic is or is not used in a particular case, and how a particular approach will reduce the risk of resistant strains emerging

This poster is presented as part of the European Antibiotic Awareness day, an event designed to make information available to the public and health professionals on issues related to the responsible and effective use of antibiotics and the disorders they are used to treat
<http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/eaad/Pages/Home.aspx>

The One Health Initiative is a movement to forge co-equal, all inclusive collaborations between physicians, veterinarians, dentists, nurses and other scientific-health and environmentally related disciplines. The Bella Moss Foundation works hard to bridge the gap between human and animal health and believes that responsible use of antibiotics will benefit animals and people in equal measure Find out more about the One Health Initiative at <http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/>