2022 AAFCP/AAHA Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines

Antimicrobial Resistance Threatens Animal & Human Health

What is antimicrobial resistance?

- Bacteria naturally develop ways to avoid being killed or injured by antibiotics
- This process happens faster when antibiotics are being used frequently or used for illnesses that are not bacterial
- The bacteria that are not resistant die off, leaving behind a more highly resistant population

Why should we worry about antimicrobial resistance?

- Resistant bacteria can infect an animal or person and cause serious disease
- There may be no treatment available, or the only available drugs may cause serious side effects

Veterinarians are important for safeguarding our antibiotics

The whole veterinary team can be involved in antimicrobial stewardship:

Practice good preventive care:
- Use antibiotics only when necessary
- Use alternative treatments like bathing and topical drugs
- Use diagnostic testing to direct treatment

Identify risk factors for infections to prevent them before they happen

Teach clients about good animal care and hygiene

Consider “watchful waiting” to see if a condition needs antibiotics

AAHA.org/antimicrobials