







# 2022 AAFP/AAHA Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines



3/2/1

## Top Tenets of Antimicrobial Stewardship

-  Practice good preventive medicine, routine health monitoring, and keep vaccinations updated.
-  Teach clients about good animal care practices and hygiene.
-  Use other alternatives to oral antibiotics, like bathing, sprays, and ointments.
-  Consider “watchful waiting” to observe whether a condition truly needs antibiotics or if patients can clear it on their own.
-  Use diagnostic testing to determine if an infection is bacterial and will respond to antibiotics.
-  The entire veterinary team plays a role in educating clients about antimicrobial stewardship and why prescribing antibiotics may not be the best option for some conditions.

## Antimicrobial Resistance: What is it, exactly?

Bacteria naturally develop ways to avoid being killed or injured by antibiotics, but this 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.

## 3 Takeaways



Antimicrobial resistance threatens animal and human health.



Veterinarians are important for safeguarding our antibiotics.



The whole veterinary team can be involved in antimicrobial stewardship.

## 2 Actions



Use antibiotics only when necessary and practice good preventive care.



Identify risk factors for infections to prevent them before they happen.

## 1 Thing to Never Forget



If we do not actively participate in stewardship, we may lose access to critical medications for our patients.

## AVMA Resources for the Veterinary Team

[Antimicrobial use in veterinary practice](#)

[Antimicrobial stewardship](#)

[Veterinary checklist for antimicrobial stewardship](#)

[Antimicrobial do's and don'ts \(cat\)](#)

[Antimicrobial do's and don'ts \(dog\)](#)



[aaha.org/antimicrobials](http://aaha.org/antimicrobials)

©2022 AAFP/AAHA