

The World Veterinary Association welcomes Antibiotic Awareness Week

PRESS RELEASE - 17th NOVEMBER 2017

With *pharmaceutical stewardship* as one of its key strategic goals, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) - representing around half a million veterinarians spread over all continents - is actively engaged in promoting the responsible and judicious use of antimicrobials in animals.

In line with its mission, the WVA is constantly striving to enhance animal health and welfare and public health around the globe. The protection of animals and people against the emergence and spread of resistant micro-organisms, and keeping sufficient, effective antimicrobials available for the treatment of sick animals are important elements of our objective. Realising these goals starts with knowledge and awareness!

A second WVA key strategic goal is *education*. Without understanding how the emergence and spread of resistance can effectively be reduced, and without sufficient awareness about the need to do so, nothing will change.

The WVA therefore welcomes the Global Antibiotic Awareness Week as an excellent opportunity to involve people around the world in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

The WVA president, Dr Johnson Chiang, says:

"We trust the Antibiotic Awareness Week will stimulate many new initiatives and provide an extra boost for all on-going actions against the threat of antimicrobial resistance. Everyone - doctors, veterinarians, technicians, nurses, patients, animal owners, etc. - should become engaged and contribute as much as possible"

The WVA contributes by putting the use of antimicrobials high on the agenda of many important events, such as the next <u>World Veterinary Association Congress</u>. The congress, with the theme *Caring for Animals = Caring for our Planet*, will be held from 5th to 8th May 2018 in Barcelona.

Half a million veterinarians across the globe, continuously working to make our world a healthier place for animals and people!!

