CHAPTER 6.8.

MONITORING OF THE QUANTITIES AND USAGE PATTERNS OF ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS USED IN FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

Article 6.8.1.

Definition and Purpose

For the purpose of this chapter, therapeutic use of antimicrobial agents means the administration of antimicrobial agents to animals for treating and controlling infectious diseases.

The purpose of these recommendations in this chapter is to describe an approach to the monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobial agents used in food-producing animals.

In order to evaluate antimicrobial exposure in food-producing animals, it is desirable to collect quantitative information on antimicrobial agents or class of antimicrobial agents, route of administration and type of use: therapeutic (to treat, control or prevent) or nontherapeutic (including growth promotion) and route of administration.

Rationale – While the recommended level of information collected may be desirable, for some countries the level of specificity of data is not available, especially for compounds that may have multiple indications for use and multiple routes of administration.

Comment: The United States has reviewed the proposed definitions for “therapeutic use”, “nontherapeutic use” and “growth promotion”, and strongly supports their adoption. These definitions are aligned with the global direction animal health authorities are taking and allow for the gradual and steady implementation of responsible antibiotic use.

Definitions

For the purposes of the Terrestrial Code,

Therapeutic use of antimicrobial agents means the administration of an antimicrobial agent to an individual or a group of animals to treat, control or prevent infection or disease:

- to treat means to administer an antimicrobial agent to an individual or a group of animals showing clinical signs of an infectious disease;

- to control means to administer an antimicrobial agent to a group of animals containing sick animals and healthy animals (presumed to be infected), to minimise or resolve clinical signs and to prevent further spread of the disease;
to prevent means to administer, using an appropriate dose and for a limited, defined duration, an antimicrobial agent to an individual or a group of animals at risk of developing a specific infection or in a specific situation where disease is likely to occur if the drug is not administered.

Nontherapeutic use of antimicrobial agents means the administration of antimicrobial agents to animals for any purpose other than to treat, control or prevent infection or disease; it includes growth promotion.

Growth promotion means the administration of antimicrobial agents to animals in their feed or water to increase the rate of weight gain or the efficiency of feed utilisation.