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, quantitative information should be collected to monitor usage patterns by animal species, antimicrobial agents or class of antimicrobial agents, route of administration and type of use (therapeutic to treat, control or prevent infectious disease) or nontherapeutic (including growth promotion) and route of administration.

Article 6.8.1bis.
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 infectious 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 acquiring a specific infection or in a specific situation where infectious 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 infectious disease; it includes growth promotion.

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

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