

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT

USA COMMENTS

CHAPTER 6.2.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
CONTROLLING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Article 6.2.1.

Objectives

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Antimicrobial agents are essential drugs for human and animal health and welfare. The OIE recognises the need for access to antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine: antimicrobial agents are essential for treating ~~and~~, controlling ~~and preventing~~ and preventing infectious *diseases* in *aquatic animals*. The OIE therefore considers that ensuring continued access to effective antimicrobial agents is important.

Rationale : The change proposed by the AAHSC conflicts with the definition of therapeutic uses of antimicrobials as put forth by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. We acknowledge that there is little debate on the use of antimicrobials for treatment of disease in animals. However, prevention and control of disease are also key elements in the practice of veterinary medicine, particularly in aquatic and terrestrial animal agriculture, where the focus is on population health. This concept of disease prevention and control through herd health is analogous to public health efforts. The loss of approved preventative uses of antimicrobials will negatively impact animal health and welfare without significantly or predictably improving public health. Non-science based, broad bans of preventive uses of antimicrobials have the potential to harm public health, such as through increased foodborne disease. Additional information, including a bibliography of relevant scientific literature, is available at www.avma.org/press/testimonies/hoang_testimony_080925.asp#3.