

UNILEVER'S POSITION ON USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN FARM ANIMALS

Antibiotics are medicines used to treat infections and are essential to protect health in both animals and humans. Excessive or inappropriate use can lead to the emergence of resistant bacteria that do not respond to treatment. This phenomenon, called antibiotic resistance, is a major cause of concern for human and animal health.

As Unilever sources products from livestock supply chains, we can play a role, working with our suppliers, in preventing antibiotic resistance at the global level.

Unilever believes that antibiotics in farm animals must be used prudently with the aim of optimising therapeutic efficacy and minimising the development of antibiotic resistance. We therefore encourage our suppliers to:

1. Restrict use of the Highest Priority Critically Important antibiotics for human medicine as defined by the WHO¹ unless used under the direction of a veterinary surgeon as a treatment of last resort and following diagnostic testing
2. Phase out routine prophylactic use of antibiotics (routine use for the prevention of disease) and the use of antibiotics as growth promoters²
3. Develop a written health plan in consultation with a veterinary surgeon that includes disease risks, treatment protocols and preventative measures specific to the farm, which should contribute to reducing antibiotic use
4. Record medicine usage to allow the monitoring of trends in antibiotic usage over time.

This position applies to all species, products and geographies.

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¹ <https://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/antimicrobials-sixth/en/> [Accessed 15 July 2019] Includes 3rd and higher generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, macrolides and colistin.

² this was banned in the EU in 2006 and in the US in 2017 (under a voluntary agreement), but may still be taking place in other regions