6 ways the EU can lead the way in protecting animal health



AnimalhealthEurope

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#AnimalHealthMatters

animalhealth europe
THE VOICE OF THE ANIMAL MEDICINES INDUSTRY

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We all depend on animals in our daily lives – for companionship, assistance, leisure and our food. No matter how well we care for our animals, they can still get sick and may need medicines.

But treating sick animals is only part of the story. While treatment will always be important, the focus is increasingly shifting to disease prevention and animal resilience as well as earlier diagnosis to facilitate better interventions to improve animal health.

By protecting the health and welfare of more than a billion animals across Europe – from cod to cats and ponies to piglets – the animal health industry improves the quality of life for animals and people, contributing to safe, affordable and sustainable food production. We safeguard public health by preventing disease outbreaks in animals and enhance Europe's preparedness against emerging diseases, as well as those which are transferable from animals to people.

We believe that animal health is an essential precondition to animal welfare, a growing concern for Europe's citizens.

When used responsibly, as recommended, animal medicines provide all these benefits.

Europe is the birthplace of modern veterinary medicine and is the home of the world's leading animal health companies, supporting 50,000 jobs across Europe. Representing an annual turnover of around €6 billion, Europe is the second largest animal medicines market in the world. We have high hopes for Europe and we have big ideas to contribute towards its future.

We are setting out our vision for animal health, welfare and sustainability in the years ahead.

Because we want to play our part in keeping Europe healthy and safeguarding our food chain.

Because healthy animals mean healthy people and a healthier planet.

Because #AnimalHealthMatters.

6 ways the EU can lead the way in protecting animal health



1. Ensure the timely and science–based implementation of the new veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed regulations, providing availability of animal health solutions in all markets, for all species.
2. Support the scientific output of the EU's own agency – the European Medicines Agency (EMA) – in determining what range of veterinary medicines should be available and what conditions should be placed on their use.
3. Prioritise investment at national and European level in innovative early research through funding programmes such as Horizon Europe. These programmes hold the key to unlocking the secrets needed to develop new generations of vaccines and other therapies for both animal and human health.
4. Stimulate a regulatory environment that encourages the bringing to market of the latest scientific advancement in veterinary medicines.
5. Foster an integrated approach to combating diseases and reducing antibiotic resistance by deploying different tools available (e.g. vaccines and diagnostics). Collectively, these tools complement and extend the usefulness of therapeutic approaches and products.
6. Adopt a strategy that specifically supports innovation for the continued development of these different tools and raises awareness of their capacity to address a broad range of animal diseases, including infectious emerging diseases.

Protecting current solutions

The animal health industry offers a wide variety of solutions to support animal health. Deploying these tools and developing new ones are key priorities for the future.

Antibiotics must remain an essential part of the veterinary toolbox because despite the best preventative tools available, animals will get sick and may require antibiotics.

Efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to date have focused on achieving reduction targets in the use of antibiotics, which may be detrimental to animal welfare. It is important for both animal and public health to keep current antibiotics available for animal use because alternatives are either limited or do not exist.

As one of the founding members of the European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (EPRUMA), we continue to advocate the use of antibiotics only "as little as possible, as much as necessary".

We call on the European Union to be more outspoken, supportive and ultimately to lead the deployment of the broader toolbox of animal health solutions. We envisage a Europe whose political and regulatory framework stimulates the growth of innovation in the animal health sector and secures its future.

Optimal animal health relies on a full range of solutions

- **Testing** to better understand the animal's susceptibility to disease and predict which animals are less prone to diseases.
- **Vaccines and anti-parasitics** help prevent the consequences of disease, or possible secondary infections, and optimise the use of therapeutic treatments such as antibiotics.
- **Digital surveillance tools** provide the ability to monitor animal identification, health status, metabolic performance, and behaviour to ensure targeted treatment; better informed decisions; and earlier intervention where the signs of stress or disease are detected sooner.
- **Diagnostics** make it easier and more efficient to identify sick animals and the pathogen associated with disease, thereby allowing targeted prevention and treatment.
- **Treatment** products that offer a range of health benefits, especially to sick or at-risk animals.
- **Training and expertise** are provided by animal health companies to assist veterinarians and farmers in the use of medicines and to investigate specific disease challenges.

Getting the foundation right

Europe's competitiveness and market leadership in the animal health sector must be supported by a stable and conducive regulatory environment.

Pragmatic implementation of the new EU legislation for the animal health sector can provide the incentives to develop innovative and much-needed medicines that safeguard not only animal but also human health and the environment. This is central to a One Health approach.



Europe represents around 1/3 of the global market

Our industry enables almost 10 million jobs across Europe both directly and indirectly

The animal medicines industry is present in all EU Member States

Healthy animals mean safe food

A safe and sustainable food supply chain is essential for feeding our growing population. The animal health industry delivers the therapies and disease prevention tools to make this a reality.

- Reducing infections in animals improves animal welfare, food safety, and food yields to the benefit of Europe's citizens.
- Animal medicines contribute to meeting the increased worldwide demand for food – expected to double by 2050.
- The animal health industry makes a vital contribution to revitalising Europe's rural areas while ensuring food security, as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Preventing current and new animal diseases is not only vital for safeguarding public health but also for Europe's agri-food sector.

We all have a role to play in ensuring that Europe's animals are protected from disease and suffering. We hope you too can agree that Animal Health Matters.

Thanks to **comprehensive EU control measures** and **poultry vaccination**, human salmonella cases in the EU have **fallen by almost 50% since 2004**.

Successful animal **vaccination programmes** and **the EU pet passport system** mean that today the vast majority of EU member states are **now rabies-free**.



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Supporting the future of animal health