

03 April 2013

FDA Advisory
No. 2013-006

**SUBJECT: THE RISKS OF INDISCRIMINATE USE OF
ANTIMICROBIALS IN ANIMALS**

The Philippine FDA is seriously concerned over TV and print advertisements that promote the indiscriminate use of veterinary antimicrobials in fighting cocks and food-producing animals. All veterinary antimicrobial products are prescription or ethical drugs and Section 2.3 of DOH Administrative Order No. 65, series of 1989, on the Guidelines on Advertisement and Promotions to Implement the Generic Act of 1988, prohibits the advertisement and promotion of all prescription or ethical drugs in any form of mass media.

Veterinary antimicrobials are drugs used to inhibit the growth of harmful bacteria in animals. The net result is to control infection or to restore health to animals. However, aside from their therapeutic use, veterinary antimicrobials are admixed in feeds or added in drinking water to promote growth, improve feed efficiency or feed conversion rate and to prevent disease.

Public health concerns over the ill effects of constant exposure to veterinary antimicrobials are well documented. The root of the problem is the practice of indiscriminate, improper and irrational use of veterinary antimicrobials in raising food-producing animals which favors the emergence and possible spread of antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) pathogenic or disease-causing bacteria in both animal and human populations. Food animals are also traded worldwide and as a result of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) affecting the animal food supply of one country may become a potential problem for other countries. Studies have shown in other countries that some human bacterial infections have proved difficult to treat even with limited use of new antibiotics for hospitalized patients.

The public is warned against the practice of indiscriminate use of antimicrobials in raising poultry and livestock animals. All veterinary drug outlets are prohibited from dispensing veterinary antimicrobials without the written order of a licensed veterinarian. All veterinary manufacturers, importers, traders, and distributors are likewise warned to stop all forms of TV and print advertisement and promotion of antimicrobials used in food-producing animals as well as companion or pet animals.

Please send your questions and points of clarification at info@fda.gov.ph.


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