



AVMA Policies Approved by the House of Delegates in 2022

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AVMA Policy

AVMA policy is a crucial component of the AVMA's work to achieve our [mission and objective](#).

- Policies are the guiding principles of the Association
- Provide guidance to the veterinary profession
- Provide a message platform from which the Association can advocate for the profession on legislation, regulation, public outreach, and more

AVMA professional policies—those that address the practice of veterinary medicine—help advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, facilitate harmonization across the profession, and clarify the AVMA position

AVMA Policy

How is policy made?

PATHWAY FROM issue to AVMA policy

There are several paths an issue can take to become policy—and several ways it can begin. Policymaking is powered by you as an AVMA member. See how you can get involved and help shape policy at [avma.org/PoweredByYou](https://www.avma.org/PoweredByYou).



Stage 1: Identify the issue

Issues are continually identified—through clinical experience, discussion among colleagues, publication review and more. They're then directed to the appropriate volunteer group for consideration.



Stage 2: Expert evaluation

A volunteer council, committee or task force evaluates the issue and its importance to the AVMA and our profession. The panel seeks input from relevant experts, colleagues and scientific resources. If appropriate, it recommends consideration by the BOD.



Stage 3: Make a recommendation or resolution

Recommendations, resolutions or a petition by at least 50 members are presented to the voting body for consideration.



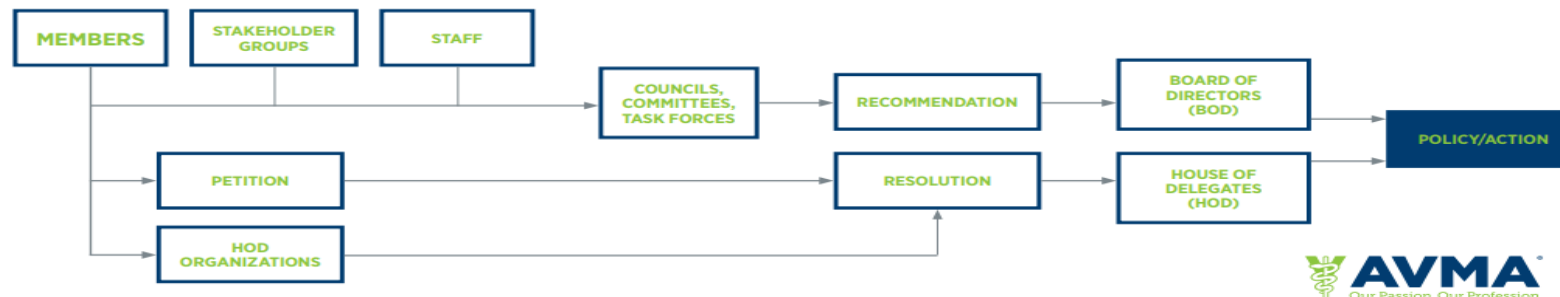
Stage 4: Policymakers discuss and decide

The BOD and HOD evaluate and vote on the matter. Proposals may be approved, disapproved, or referred for further refinement and input.



Stage 1: Policy is created

Once a policy is approved by the BOD or HOD, it immediately becomes official policy.



HOD Approved Policies in 2022

Support for the collection of antimicrobial use data for antimicrobial stewardship

- New policy created by the Committee on Antimicrobials (CoA)
- First AVMA policy to directly address AVMA's position on the collection antimicrobial use and how the data collected might be used to support antimicrobial stewardship
- Follows the AVMA Core Principles of Stewardship
- Accompanying white paper in [JAVMA](#)
- Sent to BOD November 2021. Referred to HOD. Approved by HOD January 2022.

Support for the collection of antimicrobial use data for antimicrobial stewardship

COMMENT ON THIS POLICY

(This policy does not apply to non-medically important antibiotics.)

Antimicrobials are necessary tools for protecting animal health and wellbeing. Antimicrobial stewardship is successful only when all partners¹ involved in antimicrobial use in animals are engaged. Veterinarians should promote and adhere to the [principles of antimicrobial stewardship](#), such as evaluating antimicrobial use practices (AVMA Core Principle #4) and assessing outcomes of antimicrobial use (Core Principle #3). These actions require the collection and evaluation of antimicrobial use data and treatment outcomes in animals. Therefore, the AVMA encourages partners to work together to develop an array of objective, reproducible, and interoperable methods of collecting, evaluating, analyzing, and sharing antimicrobial drug prescribing and use data from individual veterinary practices, practice groups, or regions, and from other users of antimicrobials in animals.

Successful methods of collecting antimicrobial use data should address data access from various types of record systems, standardization of drug coding and disease definitions, and interoperability of data collection and analysis systems. The methods of collection must preserve veterinarian-client confidentiality and include acceptable data anonymization. Ideally, these systems will capture and integrate relevant diagnostic and animal outcomes to provide necessary metadata and context about therapeutic decisions. Simply comparing antimicrobial use and treatment outcomes in individual animals or groups of animals cannot accurately establish cause and effect relationships. Collecting and viewing these data in an integrated manner over time can inform and advance antimicrobial stewardship and veterinary clinical decision-making at the local level in the context of the veterinarian-client-patient interaction.

¹ Partners refers to any or all of the following: animal owners, animal caretakers, animal shelters, animal sanctuaries, food animal producers, veterinarians, animal breeders, pet stores, zoos and animal exhibitors, animal transporters, software developers, animal health records systems managers, the general public, and legislators and regulators.

Use of prescription drugs in veterinary medicine

- New policy developed by the Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents (COBTA)
- Supersede the 3 policies on Guidelines for Veterinary Prescription Drugs, Writing Veterinary Prescriptions, and Client Requests for Prescriptions .
- Recommendation sent to the BOD in April 2022
- BOD referred to the HOD with a recommendation to approve
- House Advisory Committee (HAC) also recommended the HOD approve the policy
- HOD reviewed the policy and approved July 2022

Use of prescription drugs in veterinary medicine

To see policy, please visit the AVMA webpage

[Use of prescription drugs in veterinary medicine | American Veterinary Medical Association \(avma.org\)](https://www.avma.org/advocacy-policy/prescription-drugs)

Adverse event reporting

- New policy developed by the Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents (COBTA)
- Supersedes the current policies on Adverse Event Reporting and on Vaccinovigilance.
- Create one policy that addresses adverse event reporting for both pharmaceuticals and vaccines
- Define the terms “adverse event” and “veterinary pharmacovigilance” as they pertain to any veterinary product
- Revise language indicating that adverse event reporting systems are a high priority not only for USDA, and include FDA and EPA on the list of regulatory agencies that maintain adverse event reporting systems
- Recommendation sent to the BOD in April 2022
- BOD referred to the HOD with a recommendation to approve
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Adverse event reporting

COMMENT ON THIS POLICY

An adverse event is any observation in animals or humans, whether or not the cause of the event is known, that is unfavorable and unintended, and that occurs after any use (as indicated on the label or any extralabel use) of a product, including events related to a suspected lack of expected effectiveness. For products intended to diagnose disease, adverse events refer to a failure in product performance that hinders an expected discovery of the correct diagnosis. The AVMA encourages continued development and strengthening of adverse event reporting systems.

Veterinary pharmacovigilance is the detection and investigation of the effects of the use of veterinary products, mainly aimed at safety and effectiveness in animals and safety in people exposed to the products. The FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine, USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics, and the EPA maintain pharmacovigilance programs. The manufacturers of legally marketed veterinary products are required to report all adverse events of which they are aware to the regulatory authority. AVMA encourages veterinarians to report adverse events.

Pharmacovigilance programs should collect reports of all product-associated adverse events, including any perceived failures in safety and/or efficacy. Reporting systems should be user friendly and readily available to facilitate adverse event reporting by veterinary practitioners. Reports should follow a standardized, systematic template. Any compilation or interpretation of reports should be provided in a form that is useful to firms and clinically relevant for veterinarians.

Approval and availability of antimicrobials for use in food-producing animals

- Policy first created by Steering Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2003
- CoA was given oversight in 2016
- CoA suggested revisions during normal 5 year review cycle
- Recommendation sent to the BOD in June 2022
- BOD referred to the HOD with a recommendation to approve
- HAC also recommended approval
- HOD approved the policy in July 2022

Approval and availability of antimicrobials for use in food-producing animals

COMMENT ON THIS POLICY

The AVMA recognizes that the availability and effectiveness of antimicrobials, including medically important antimicrobials, are important for supporting the health and welfare of food-producing animals and ensuring food safety and public health. The AVMA supports a transparent drug approval process that is rigorous and based on substantial scientific evidence in support of the safety and efficacy of approved products. The AVMA believes that the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) new animal drug application process provides a well-established scientific basis for animal drug approvals and supports ongoing commitment by the FDA to maintain scientific integrity while continuing to explore ways to streamline the regulatory process.

The AVMA supports the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) use of scientific methods to approve antimicrobials, including medically important antimicrobials for therapeutic purposes to prevent, control, or treat diseases in food-producing animals in accordance with the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The process includes a number of pre- and post-approval safeguards such as target animal safety and effectiveness, human food safety, environmental impact, safety of the person administering the drug, and monitoring for antimicrobial resistance. The AVMA also promotes both the discovery and development of novel antimicrobials and the development of alternative drugs and technologies that would reduce the need for reliance on antimicrobial therapy in food-producing animals.

The AVMA supports the FDA's policy of eliminating the over-the-counter status of medically important antimicrobials. The AVMA also supports the requirement for veterinary oversight for on-farm therapeutic use of these drugs by requiring that a licensed veterinarian issue a veterinary feed directive, or a prescription, as appropriate, for the marketing status of the particular product. The AVMA emphasizes the important role of the veterinarian in an overall health program, establishment of the veterinarian-client-patient relationship, and the appropriate and judicious use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals. The AVMA believes restrictions on a veterinarian's ability to access and utilize medically important antimicrobials detracts from efforts to promote antimicrobial stewardship under appropriate veterinary oversight.

The AVMA recognizes that more data are needed for guiding changes in antimicrobial availability and uses in food-producing animals and related efforts to protect public health. We urge the FDA, the USDA, and other public health agencies, as well as veterinarians, food animal producers, and pharmaceutical companies to cooperatively support scientific studies needed to evaluate public health impacts of the use of medically important antimicrobials in food-producing animals. All stakeholders should be advocates for risk-based policy concerning the approval, availability, and use of medically important antimicrobials in food producing animals.

Genetic modification of animals in agriculture

- Policy created in 2016 by Council on Research (COR)
- Oversight transferred to the Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee (AALC) in 2020, just in time for its regularly scheduled 5 year review
- January 19, 2021 an [MOU](#) between USDA and FDA regarding the oversight responsibilities “concerning the regulation of “amenable species” developed using genetic engineering that are intended for agricultural purposes (i.e., human food, fiber, and labor)”
- AALC discussed this policy for 18 months, working with AVMA staff from both GRD and Headquarters. AALC believed AVMA should support USDA oversight of genetically modified animals intended for agriculture
- Sent recommendation to the BOD in June 2022
- BOD referred to the HOD with a recommendation to approve
- HAC recommended HOD approve
- HOD approved revised policy in July 2022

Genetic modification of animals in agriculture

COMMENT ON THIS POLICY

The American Veterinary Medical Association believes that genetic research and the practical application of that knowledge in farm-raised* animals should be encouraged. Genetic modification of farm-raised animals can assist in compliance with the Animal Health Protection Act of 2002, such as improving animal health, increasing disease resistance, and decreasing environmental impact. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is designated as the lead department for the health of all farm-raised animals under the Animal Health Protection Act of 2002. The AVMA believes the USDA should have primary responsibility in matters of genetic modification of farm-raised animals to facilitate innovation, foster commercialization, and manage health and welfare from a One Health standpoint.

*As referenced in the Animal Health Protection Act of 2002 the definition of Livestock means all farm-raised animals.

QUESTIONS ?

