



European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals



INTRODUCING EPRUMA

Promoting **best practices** and **responsible use** of medicines in animals - Ensuring animal health, animal welfare and public health.

ABOUT EPRUMA

The European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (EPRUMA) is a **multi-stakeholder platform** linking best practice with animal health and public health.

GOAL

EPRUMA aims to ensure **best practice** through responsible use of veterinary medicines in the prevention and control of animal diseases.

Established in 2005, it works to **promote the responsible use of medicines¹ in animals** in the EU in order to **maintain efficacy** and both **prevent and minimise undesirable effects**.

Objectives

EPRUMA's objectives comprise

- ▶ **promoting** animal health and welfare as well as human health through the Responsible Use of veterinary medicines;
- ▶ **developing** best-practice frameworks concerning the use of veterinary medicines. EPRUMA works on broad principles at EU level, which in turn can be tailored nationally to reflect local specificities in EU Member States;
- ▶ **communicating** with and engaging all parties concerned with the Responsible Use of veterinary medicines.

HOW DOES EPRUMA WORK?

EPRUMA pursues its goal by facilitating and promoting a **co-ordinated and integrated approach** involving key stakeholders, including European

- › veterinarians;
- › farmers and agri-cooperatives;
- › manufacturers of animal medicines and diagnostics;
- › feed manufacturers;
- › professionals working in animal health, sanitary security and sustainable agriculture;
- › pharmacists;

and communicates with EU institutions, food processing industry, retailers, consumer organisations, etc.

They develop **framework documents** on how to best use veterinary medicines and vaccines. In other words, EPRUMA works on broad principles at EU level, which in turn **can be tailored nationally** to reflect local specificities in EU Member States.

An example of this is the **“Best-practice framework for the use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals”**, which EPRUMA launched in 2008, and is available in various European languages.

EPRUMA partners are committed to **work together** to ensure safe and transparent use of veterinary medicines and to prevent or minimise undesirable effects.

“As little as possible, as much as necessary” should be the guiding principle with respect to antibiotic use.

¹ Medicines as defined in Directive 2001/82/EC as amended by Directive 2004/28/EC

ABOUT RESPONSIBLE USE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Responsible use of medicines in animals is based on a **holistic approach of minimising disease** through concepts including:

- ▶ biosecurity: a set of preventative measures aiming to keep groups of animals healthy or to limit the spread of disease within an animal population;
- ▶ good housing and ventilation;
- ▶ good hygiene;
- ▶ appropriate nutrition;
- ▶ regular monitoring of health and welfare;
- ▶ herd health planning as a voluntary and flexible management tool tailored to record specific actions at individual farms;
- ▶ vaccination;
- ▶ maintaining the pharmacovigilance system.

When disease occurs, diagnosis and treatment under veterinary care should follow. Veterinary medicines should be used according to the instructions given by the veterinarian and/or medicine manufacturers.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Veterinarians

Veterinarians play an **essential role** in protecting animal health, animal welfare and public health by providing a wide range of services. Veterinarians:

- ▶ **promote the responsible** use of medicines, stressing the importance of good management and respect for sanitary rules;
- ▶ **prescribe medicines** only after careful examination as appropriate;
- ▶ **explain** in detail how the prescribed medicine should be used.



Farmers

Farmers' primary goal is **to have healthy animals through good husbandry**.

Good hygiene, proper feed, appropriate husbandry and good management practices are by far the best strategy for farmers to adopt, not just for welfare and health-related reasons but for economic reasons too. However, despite these measures, animals still get sick and need to be treated.

With regard to the responsible use of veterinary medicines, the role of the farmer is to:

- ▶ **adhere to the veterinary prescription**, including **recommendations** given on medicine-use;
- ▶ **record all treatments** so the results can be evaluated and allow for a possible adjustment for future treatments.

Thanks to EPRUMA farmers can access **a comprehensive and practical framework of best practices** for the use of veterinary medicines in the farming sector, contributing to the development of **successful management and animal health programmes** for the entire farm.

Veterinarians and farmers work together to control diseases that can be transmitted to humans by animals (zoonoses) through direct contact, the food chain or a shared environment.



Pet owners

Responsible pet owners give their pets the best quality healthcare to ensure that they lead happy and healthy lives. Veterinary medicines are valuable tools that enable them to do this under the guidance of veterinarians.

Benefits of the responsible use of veterinary medicines to pet owners include:

- ▶ **prevention of diseases** through vaccination;
- ▶ **safeguarding the health and welfare** of companion animals through effective treatments that reduce the burden of disease and relieve unnecessary pain and suffering of the animals;
- ▶ **control of diseases** that can be transmitted to humans by pets (zoonoses) through close contact and shared environment;

thereby **reducing the occurrence of pathogens** that might seriously compromise the health of animals and people. This is obtained through **responsible use of veterinary medicines** as an integral part of successful treatment.

Food chain

EPRUMA contributes to the provision of **safe, healthy, affordable and wholesome food**, efficiently derived from healthy animals.

Food products coming from animals are an important source of nutrition. Eggs, dairy products, meat etc. form a valuable part of a balanced diet.

Safety is crucial when it comes to food. Veterinarians and farmers work together to ensure that food-producing animals are and remain healthy, which enables farmers to produce safe food. This means ensuring good husbandry practices (e.g. hygiene, feed and environment) and animals' health and welfare.



EPRUMA PARTNERS

COPA-COGECA: European Farmers and Agri-Cooperatives
www.copa-cogeca.eu



EGGVP: European Group for Generic Veterinary Products
www.eggvp.org



EISA: European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture
www.sustainable-agriculture.org



EMVD: European Manufacturers of Veterinary Diagnostics
www.aefrv.eu



FECAVA: Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations
www.fecava.org



FEFAC: European Feed Manufacturers Federation
www.fefac.eu



FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
www.fesass.eu



FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
www.fve.org



IFAH-Europe: International Federation for Animal Health-Europe
www.ifaheurope.org



PGEU: Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union
www.pgeu.eu



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

AMCRA: Centre for Expertise on Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance in Animals (Belgium)
www.amcra.be



RUMA: Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (United Kingdom)
www.ruma.org.uk



VETRESPONSABLE: Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (Spain)
www.vetresponsable.es



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