



HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE ANTIBIOTIC USE

Antibiotic Resistance in Horses

Antibiotic Resistance is the ability of bacteria and other organisms to resist the effects of an antibiotic to which they were once sensitive.



Antibiotic resistance is increasing due to:

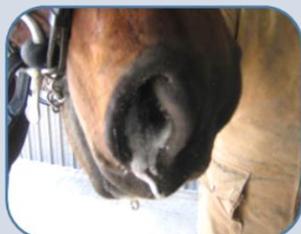
- Overuse of antibiotics
- Misuse of antibiotics
- Environmental sources



Antibiotic resistance leads to ineffective treatment for diseases which cause health issues for horses as well as humans.



We all have a role to play.



Don't treat fevers, coughs or snotty noses with antibiotics unless prescribed by your veterinarian. Viruses or inflammation due to things like allergies may be the cause of some or all of these signs and will not respond to antibiotics. Aimlessly treating with antibiotics may delay proper diagnosis and treatment.

Encourage abscesses to drain. Abscesses such as hoof abscesses and uncomplicated Strangles abscesses for example should be encouraged to drain to the outside. Poultices, hot packs and the like will help the abscess come to a head. Antibiotics slow the development of abscesses and the horse will take longer to recover.



Treat superficial skin and wound infections topically. Infections such as mud fever/heel cracks and minor cuts and wounds can be treated with topical products such as, anti-inflammatories, medicinal honey or hypertonic saline without the need for antibiotics.

Have a biosecurity plan for your farm or facility. Biosecurity practices such as quarantining new or returning horses can prevent or limit the spread of infectious diseases and the need for antibiotics.



Keep your horse healthy with good nutrition, regular exercise, routine vaccinations and parasite control. These practices will support a healthy immune system and lessen the need for antibiotics.

IF ANTIBIOTICS ARE NEEDED:

DO

- ✓ Have a bacterial culture done so you know what you're treating and which antibiotic will work.
- ✓ Follow directions. Use the right amount, frequency, timing (e.g. on an empty stomach) and number of days as directed.
- ✓ Monitor the response to treatment and call your veterinarian if concerned.

DON'T

- × Use antibiotics unless prescribed by a veterinarian.
- × Buy antibiotics over the internet without a veterinary prescription. Antibiotics meant for people and not horses can be fatal.
- × Use expired antibiotics.
- × Re-use the needle or syringe for injectable antibiotics.