British Veterinary Association

Responsible use of antimicrobials in veterinary practice:

THE 7-POINT PLAN

1 Work with clients to avoid need for antimicrobials

- Inform owners about the benefits of regular pet health checks
- Use symptomatic relief or topical preparations where appropriate
- Integrated disease control programmes
- Animal Health and Welfare Planning
- Isolate infected animals wherever possible

2 Avoid inappropriate use

- For example, for uncomplicated viral infections
- Restrict use to ill or at-risk animals
- Advise clients on correct administration and storage of products and completion of course
- Avoid underdosing

3 Choose the right drug for the right bug

- Identify likely target organisms and predict their susceptibility
- Create practice-based protocols for common infections based on clinical judgement and up to date knowledge
- Know how antimicrobials work and their pharmacodynamic properties
- Use narrow spectrum antimicrobials where possible

4 Monitor antimicrobial sensitivity

- While clinical diagnosis is often the initial basis for treatment, bacterial culture and sensitivity must be determined whenever possible so that a change of treatment can be implemented if necessary
- Monitor bacterial culture and sensitivity trends

5 Minimise use

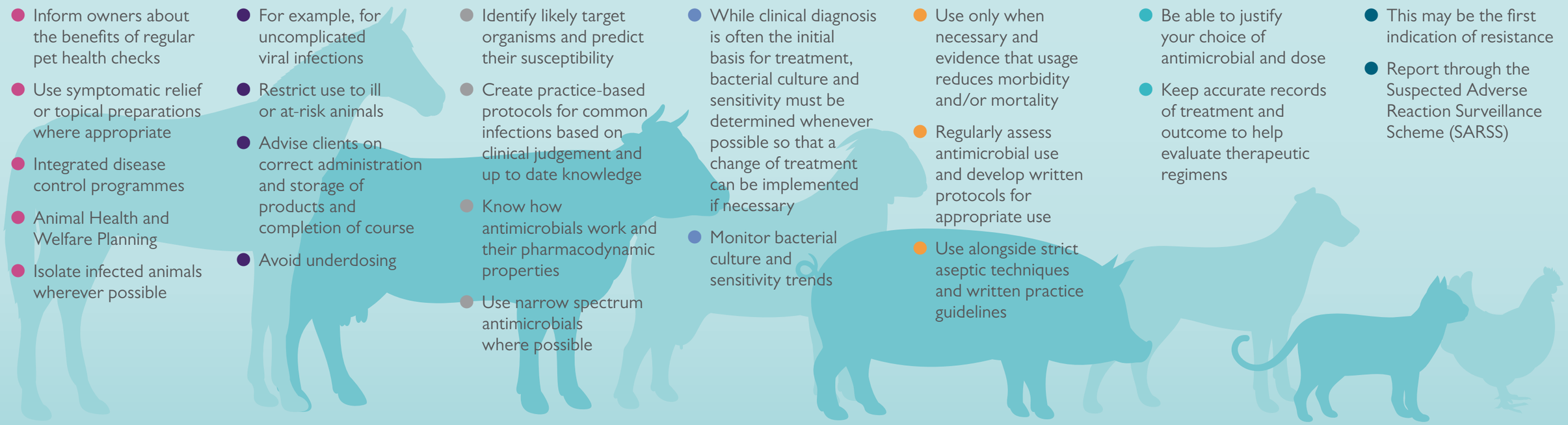
- Use only when necessary and evidence that usage reduces morbidity and/or mortality
- Regularly assess antimicrobial use and develop written protocols for appropriate use
- Use alongside strict aseptic techniques and written practice guidelines

6 Record and justify deviations from protocols

- Be able to justify your choice of antimicrobial and dose
- Keep accurate records of treatment and outcome to help evaluate therapeutic regimens

7 Report suspected treatment failure to the VMD

- This may be the first indication of resistance
- Report through the Suspected Adverse Reaction Surveillance Scheme (SARSS)



- Antimicrobials are essential for the treatment and prevention of the spread of infectious and zoonotic bacterial diseases in both animals and humans
- Every use increases the risk of selection for resistant bacteria
- Responsible use optimises therapeutic effects while minimising the risk of selection for resistant bacteria
- Responsible use — correct antimicrobial: as little as possible, as much as necessary

HIGHER RISK ANTIMICROBIALS

Fluoroquinolones, 3rd/4th generation cephalosporins and macrolides:

- Reserve these antimicrobials for clinical conditions that respond poorly to other classes of antimicrobials and where bacterial culture and sensitivity has been carried out.
- Do not administer systemically to groups or flocks of animals except in very specific situations and special attention should be given to the risk of antimicrobial resistance as part of the benefit/risk assessment.
- Avoid off label use whenever possible

For the latest detailed guidance visit

www.bva.co.uk

ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN

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