Help keep antibiotics working

DON'T INFECT



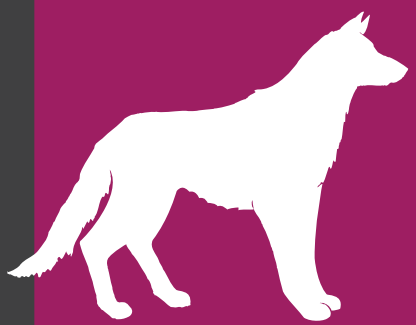
Antibiotics should only be used when necessary. A healthy pet is better equipped to fight off infections than an unhealthy one. Therefore, keeping your pet fit and well through good nutrition, exercise, regular worming and vaccinations may reduce the need for your pet to receive antibiotic treatment. It is also important to minimise the possibility of bacteria being transferred between pets and humans and vice versa so when handling or stroking your pet use good hygiene measures, such as washing your hands.

DON'T EXPECT

Not every infection needs to be treated with antibiotics so don't expect antibiotics from your vet. If your vet does prescribe antibiotics it will be after a clinical assessment and they will decide which antibiotic, at what dose and for how long is correct. Antibiotics come in different classes and each is used to target different infections, no antibiotic is necessarily 'stronger' than another. Your vet may also need to carry out laboratory tests to ensure that the right antibiotic is prescribed for the right bacteria.



DO PROTECT



Follow the advice given by your vet and use any antibiotics prescribed in accordance with their labelling instructions. Complete the full course prescribed even if your pet gets better after a few doses. Inform your vet early if you have any difficulty in giving the antibiotic to your pet, or if after a few days your pet does not seem to be getting better, as delay in treating infection can make it harder to treat in the long term.

Antibiotics are essential medicines for treating bacterial infections in both humans and animals and they are losing their effectiveness at an increasing rate. Bacteria can adapt and find ways to survive the effects of an antibiotic. It is therefore important we use antibiotics in the right way, the right medicine, at the right dose, at the right time, and for the right duration to slow down the development of antibiotic resistance.

BVA British Veterinary Association www.bva.co.uk

www.vmd.defra.gov.uk VMD Veterinary Medicines Directorate