Antimicrobial resistance happens when bacteria and other microorganisms change after being exposed to antimicrobial drugs. Antibiotics are among the most common antimicrobial drugs used in humans and animals. The overuse and misuse of antibiotics is speeding up the development of resistance and putting us all at risk.

Antibiotic resistance can affect anyone, of any age, in any country. It is a threat to human health, food security and sustainable development.

### WHAT VETERINARIANS AND ANIMAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CAN DO

1. **Stop overuse and misuse of antibiotics by:**
   - Prescribing and giving antibiotics to animals under my care only when necessary
   - Making the right choice of antibiotic through accurate diagnosis
   - Educating animal owners about the risks of antibiotic resistance

2. **Prevent the spread of infection by:**
   - Ensuring hands, instruments and environment are always clean
   - Vaccinating animals and isolating sick ones to prevent the spread of disease
   - Promoting hygiene and other good practices among farmers and animal owners

www.antibioticawarenessweek.org