FECAVA advice on responsible use of antimicrobials

Use this chart to:
• Support your decision making
• Avoid unnecessary antimicrobial use

Should I use antimicrobials in this patient?

Do you know or strongly suspect the condition is a bacterial infection or has secondary bacterial involvement?

YES

Is resolution of this infection dependent on use of antimicrobials?

YES

Will the animal’s wellbeing be threatened if you delay therapy?

YES

Choose an antimicrobial based on cytology & expected cause, current recommendations & scientific literature

Take samples for culture & susceptibility testing

If indicated, change treatment according to laboratory results & if possible to an antimicrobial with the narrowest spectrum

Consider non-bacterial causes (e.g. viral, parasitic, non-infectious)

Consider use of antiseptics or other agents based on expected cause, current recommendations & scientific literature

If it might still resolve

Consider use of antiseptics or other agents based on current recommendations & scientific literature

If not resolving, take samples for culture & susceptibility testing

If if resolved, take samples for culture & susceptibility testing

NO

NO

NO

If not resolving, take samples for culture & susceptibility testing

Choose other therapy based on expected cause, current recommendations & scientific literature

NO

It will probably not make a difference

Choose an antimicrobial based on laboratory findings, current recommendations & scientific literature

If there is a poor response to therapy, review your diagnosis and therapeutic plan

NO

It will probably not make a difference

Choose an antimicrobial based on laboratory findings, current recommendations & scientific literature

If there is a poor response to therapy, review your diagnosis and therapeutic plan

NO

It might still resolve

Consider use of antiseptics or other agents based on expected cause, current recommendations & scientific literature

If not resolving, take samples for culture & susceptibility testing

INDICATIONS WHERE SYSTEMIC ANTIMICROBIAL USE IS UNNECESSARY

"PREVENTIVE USE" IN HEALTHY ANIMALS
• Routine dental descaling and polishing
• Treatment of in-contact but as yet unaffected cohort animals
• At weaning time

SURGERY OF UNINFECTED / UNCONTAMINATED TISSUE
• Routine castrations and spays
• Routine laparatomy
• Caesarean section
• Removal of non-infected tumours
• Clean orthopaedic surgery of short duration (< 1,5 hours)
• Neurosurgery
• Reconstructive surgery, otoplasty, skin flaps, etc

UNCOMPLICATED CONDITIONS OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED VIRAL AETIOLOGY
• Acute canine cough
• Acute gastrointestinal infection
• Canine parvo virus
• Feline upper respiratory viral infections
• Feline calicivirus infection
• Feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) infections
• Rhinitis

OTHER CONDITIONS WITHOUT PATHOGENIC BACTERIAL INVOLVEMENT
• Feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD)
• Juvenile vaginitis
• Acute conjunctivitis
• Chronic bronchitis
• Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
• Prostatic hyperplasia or prostatic cysts
• Anal sac inflammation/engorgement without abscessation
• Wounds with well established granulation tissue

CONDITIONS LIKELY TO RESPOND TO ANTISEPTICS OR OTHER TOPICAL AGENTS
• Uncomplicated skin lesions or mildly infected wounds and bites
• Surface and superficial pyoderma
• Sebomhoecic skin diseases
• Otitis externa
• Periodontal disease

OTHER CONDITIONS WITH BACTERIAL AETIOLOGY
• Bite abscesses in cats
• Salmonella gastroenteritis
• Campylobacter spp gastroenteritis
• Clostridium difficile gastroenteritis

This table provides examples and should not be considered comprehensive