

# DOES MY PET NEED ANTIBIOTICS?

FECAVA Advice to Companion Animal Owners on Responsible Use of Antimicrobials and Infection Control

**Antibiotic resistance is a threat to global health.**

**That's why pet owners and veterinarians need to work together to preserve their efficacy.**

## WHY ARE ANTIBIOTICS IMPORTANT?

Many infections cannot be cured without antibiotics - we need them, and we must use them responsibly to preserve their efficacy in the future.

## ARE ANTIBIOTICS ALWAYS NECESSARY?

Antibiotic therapy is often unnecessary (for example, for viral infections and wound and skin infections can be managed with topical washes). Follow your veterinarian's guidance.

## WHY DO WE NEED DIAGNOSTICS? CAN'T WE JUST START THE TREATMENT?

When suspecting a bacterial infection, your veterinarian might decide to collect additional samples to look for specific signs of infection. Supporting this helps the veterinarian identify the best form of therapy and decrease the chances of promoting resistant bacteria.

## I WANT ANTIBIOTICS »JUST IN CASE«.

Do not demand antibiotics if your veterinarian does not prescribe them; in most cases, it is not appropriate to use antibiotics in a preventive manner.

## CAN I DECIDE BY MYSELF ON THE THERAPY?

**VETERINARIANS ARE TRAINED TO LOOK AFTER YOUR PETS' HEALTH THEREFORE, ALWAYS FOLLOW THEIR ADVICE.**

Give the antibiotics as instructed, do not change the dosage or stop therapy in advance without consulting your veterinarian and keep your follow-up appointments. Contact your veterinarian if the treatment is not effective within the recommended period. Do not share antibiotics with other animals or animal owners, never use leftover medicines and do not take animal medicines yourself.

## DO I NEED ANY PRECAUTIONS WHEN HANDLING MY PET WITH INFECTION?

**HANDLE YOUR ANIMAL IN A CLEAN WAY**

Always use gloves and disinfect your hands before and after handling animal with infection.  
For example, attending to wounds or cleaning the ears of animals.

