



A HEALTHY COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON HEALTHY ANIMALS

People depend on animals for their food (eggs, milk products, meat and honey) and other essential by-products (wool and leather) as well as for companionship, assistance and many leisure activities.

The animals in this relationship benefit from human care. The provision of food, water, healthy living conditions and, when needed, medicines to both prevent and treat illness keeps them healthy and, in turn, helps to maintain a healthy community.

Without animal medicines, people would be at greater risk from food-borne diseases such as salmonella and transmitted diseases such as rabies, avian influenza and tuberculosis. And because food products from sick animals cannot be sold for human consumption, such products would become scarcer and therefore more expensive while farming would become less sustainable and would require far greater land areas to deliver the same quantity of food.

The absence of animal medicines would have a greater impact in developing countries, with a risk that high food safety standards such as those of the EU and the USA could not be met and many illnesses would no longer be controllable.

The benefits of animal medicines are almost incalculable: the reduction in animal suffering which allows animals to live longer, happier lives, the ensured safety of close contact with pets as well as farm animals, and the opening up of the cross-border travel for animals through health protection programmes are prime examples of the benefits.

The animal health sector is science-driven and highly regulated, which means that its products – animal medicines, vaccines, etc. – deliver quality, safety and efficacy. As these products are invaluable tools for farmers, veterinarians and animal owners alike the sector strives for more harmonised legislation to increase innovation and ensure the availability of all medicines across Europe to benefit the health and welfare of both food-producing and companion animals.

Just 3% of all pharmaceutical sales are for animals, yet this tiny segment supports around 50,000 jobs and contributes to the viability of Europe's 10 million farmers, the continued health, happiness and wellbeing of families in Europe and the development of extensive leisure industries. The sector receives no government support, yet invests €400 million in research and development to develop new products and retain and upgrade existing ones.

For the same reasons that pharmaceutical companies are continually developing new medicines to treat human ailments, so too it is important that veterinary surgeons and farmers are able to choose from a wide range of modern, safe and effective animal medicines in the interests of the health and welfare of Europe's people and its economy.