



World Organisation
for Animal Health

Founded as OIE

**WOAH AD HOC GROUP ON THE TECHNICAL REFERENCE DOCUMENT LISTING ANTIMICROBIAL
AGENTS OF VETERINARY IMPORTANCE FOR CATS AND DOGS**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The purpose of the WOA *ad hoc* Group (hereafter, the “Group”) on the Technical Reference Document for Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance for Cats and Dogs (hereafter, the “Technical Reference Document”) is to develop a list of authorised antimicrobial agents used in domestic cats (*Felis catus*) and dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*).

This list will be annexed to the WOA List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance (hereafter, the “List”) and will be based on the latest evidence for these species.

Background

To protect the efficacy of antimicrobial agents for future generations, the ‘Joint FAO/OIE/WHO Expert Workshops on Non-Human Antimicrobial Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance’ (Geneva 2003, Switzerland¹ and Oslo 2004, Norway²), recommended that both the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) developed lists of critically important antimicrobials for humans and animals respectively. It was envisaged that the interface of the two lists would enable reflexion of risk management options, allowing an appropriate balance between animal health and public health considerations.

The [List](#) was adopted by the OIE International Committee at its 75th General Session in May 2007 ([Resolution No. XXVIII](#)). The List was further updated and adopted in May 2013, May 2015 and May 2018 by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

The subdivision of the List by animal species follows recommendations proposed during the 2nd ‘OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials’ in 2018 (Marrakesh, Morocco), and of the previous work conducted by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. This task was delegated to the WOA Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. The first species-specific list was developed for the antimicrobial agents used in poultry. The methodology used for this list was subsequently adapted and applied to other species: Aquatic Animals and Swine.

Objectives

The objective of the Technical Reference Document for Cats and Dogs is to provide relevant information on antimicrobial agents used in those species, that can contribute to the development and update of national treatment guidelines, advice on prevention and best practice management, risk management, and risk prioritisation to minimise and contain AMR.

The document shall acknowledge that the licensing, availability and off-label use of antimicrobial agents authorised for veterinary medical use in cats and dogs may vary between regions and therefore, the general information shall consider the local context. The document is not intended to serve as a treatment guideline.

¹ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/68883>

² <https://www.fao.org/3/au630e/au630e.pdf>

Actions

- determine the best way to assess the categorisation of antimicrobial agents in these species, before going ahead with the categorisation exercise.
- undertake a rapid review of the evidence to prepare a preliminary table of important bacterial pathogens, and diseases these pathogens cause, for which treatment, prevention and control involve use of antimicrobial agents in cats and dogs;
- collate the information on antimicrobial classes and agents used in cats and dogs in an Excel spreadsheet template. To note that an antimicrobial agent is considered as 'used' if authorised for veterinary medical use in any of these species in at least one country.
- include comments for each of the antimicrobial classes on its perceived importance for the treatment of specific infections or whether they are the sole or one of the few therapeutic options.
- submit the draft deliverables for feedback to:
 - experts in canine and feline medicine, initially identified through WOAHA Collaborating Centres, WOAHA Regional Representations, the Working Group members and WOAHA networks, representing WOAHA geographical regions where cats and dogs are kept as companion animals; and
 - international non-governmental animal health organisations with whom the WOAHA has established a cooperation agreement.
- review the feedback received from experts to refine the Document.

Considerations

Consider:

- relevant published scientific textbooks and reviews of infectious diseases in cats and dogs;
- electronic databases and websites of regional and national competent authorities listing antimicrobials authorised for the named species in individual countries;
- existing specific treatment guidelines, formularies and cat and dog-related recommendations from international and national veterinary bodies and organisations;
- existing marketing authorisations of veterinary products containing antimicrobial agents for the relevant species;
- expert advice.

Acknowledge:

- that no categorisation of antimicrobial classes, sub-classes or agents according to its importance for veterinary medicine will be conducted by the Group at this point.

Prerequisites

The Group members should:

- sign the WOAHA Undertaking on Confidentiality of Information;
- complete the Declaration of Interest Form;
- agree on the appointment of the chair and rapporteur of the meeting;
- understand that an initial kick-off meeting will take place in Paris at WOAHA headquarters. Subsequent electronic meetings will be organised to progress the work until the Technical Reference document is finalised and endorsed by the Working Group.
- understand that the membership of the Group may be retained to ensure continuity of the work.

Deliverables

1. A proposal for criteria to consider for the categorisation of antimicrobial agents according to their veterinary importance for cats and dogs to use in the future revision of the List;
2. A table that describes the classes of antimicrobials, and two annexes that describe the relevant pathogens or diseases in cats and dogs and the antimicrobial use patterns as follows:
 - Main table: includes disease names, causative pathogens and treatment options such as:
 - Antimicrobial class and sub-class;
 - Antimicrobial agent;
 - Comments and other considerations on the importance of the antimicrobial class for the treatment of specific diseases.
 - Annexes 1a and 1b: List of major pathogens and diseases affecting cats and dogs, respectively;
 - Annexes 2a and 2b: List of antimicrobial classes used to treat infections listed in Annexes 1a and 1b)

3. Explanatory text to support the table acknowledging variations between countries and covering:
 - availability of data;
 - distribution of cat and dog populations kept as companion animals;
 - distribution of diseases with respect to the need for different antimicrobial classes;
 - environmental and animal management practices;
 - access to different antimicrobial agents, vaccines and diagnostic tools.

Timelines

The *ad hoc* Group will draft a progress report and a draft document by 30 March 2024 for the Working Group's consideration at its April 2024 meeting.