



Antibiotics policy

Background

Antibiotics are used in farm animals to treat, control and prevent disease and in some instances to promote growth. Some antibiotics used in animals are also used in human medicine, and are categorised as “medically important antimicrobials”. Consequently, there is more concern over the use of these products in medical and veterinary treatments. Antibiotics are a critical and scarce resource and their misuse may lead to antibiotic resistance in bacteria, making human and animal disease more difficult to treat.

Approach

Asda believes that sick animals need to be treated. Antibiotics should be used responsibly in farm animals. This means that we expect farmers and veterinary surgeons to work together ensuring healthy animals and responsible use of medicines.

Asda is a sponsor of RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance www.ruma.org.uk) which brings together participants in the food supply chain. RUMA has been working on food safety, animal health and animal welfare since 1997. Asda supports the approach of working on a co-ordinated and integrated way to best practice in this area.

Asda policy is that the routine prophylactic use of antibiotics is not permitted in our supply chain. Nor is their use for production purposes ie for enhancing growth or to improve feed efficiency (www.fda.gov) . We are working with suppliers to ensure the use of 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones is limited to situations where veterinary guidance justifies the use.