



Milk and meat: Animal products prone to drug residues

Disposal of veterinary medicines

Expired and unused veterinary medicines should be carefully disposed of to avoid contamination of the environment and minimize risks to animal and human health as a result of exposure. Some of the recommended ways of disposing of veterinary medicines include incineration and dumping in recommended waste disposal facilities



Waste disposal pit

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RESPONSIBLE HANDLING AND USE OF VETERINARY MEDICINES



What are veterinary medicines?

Veterinary medicines are chemical and biological products for treating or preventing disease in animals or which may be administered to restore health and correct or modify physiological functions in animals. They include antimicrobials, hormones and vaccines among others.

Proper use of veterinary medicines helps reduce the occurrence of residues in foods of animal origin and slow down the development of antimicrobial resistance

Considerations for responsible use of veterinary medicines

Veterinary medicines should only be used with strict adherence to;

- Storage conditions
- Manufacturers' information/guidelines
- Prescription by veterinarians
- Recommendations on withdrawal periods
- Guidelines for disposal of unused/ expired medicines and empty containers.

Proper storage of veterinary medicines

Generally, all veterinary medicines should be kept in secure stores preferably in lockable cabinets in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The storage unit should be clean with the recommended temperature conditions by the manufacturers. The products should be arranged in clearly labelled shelves in their original containers.

Vaccines and other heat-sensitive products should strictly be kept in adherence to the recommended

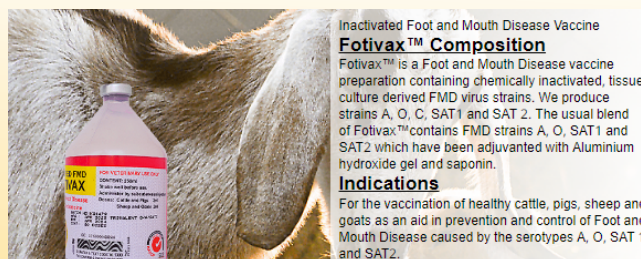
temperatures. Products kept in refrigerators should be checked frequently and maximum and minimum temperatures recorded daily.



Recommended storage for veterinary medicines

Importance of manufacturers' information in veterinary medicines

Information on recommended dosages and other vital information given by the manufacturer in product labels and packaging should be followed. In addition, prescription-only medicines should contain a reminder for users to consult veterinarians.



Manufacturer information sheet in Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine

The role of veterinarians in responsible use of Medicines

Veterinary medicines should only be used within the confines of a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship.

This facilitates correct prescription and dispensing for the benefit of the farmers and the general health/welfare of animals.

The oversight and advice to farm personnel help reduce misuse of veterinary medicines and ensure adherence to recommendations accordingly.



A veterinarian dispensing drugs to a sick animal

Withdrawal of animal products following use of veterinary medicines

Farmers should always observe withdrawal periods indicated for all medicines before presenting treated animals and their products for human consumption. This is important to prevent occurrence of antimicrobial residues in animal source foods which is a major public health concern as it leads to antimicrobial resistance.