

KEEP ANTIBIOTICS WORKING

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2024

18-24 November



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



Educate, Advocate, Act now!

That's the message from the World Health Organisation this World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week.

What is WAAW?

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) this year is 18-24 November. It's a global campaign which has been running since 2015 to raise antimicrobial resistance (AMR) awareness and promote best practices among One Health stakeholders, to reduce the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

Antimicrobial resistance is a pressing global health and socioeconomic crisis. It has significant impacts on human and animal health, food production and the environment. Drug-resistant pathogens pose a threat to everyone, everywhere. Much more needs to be done to raise public and stakeholder awareness.

What is the global campaign theme this year?

This year the theme is **Educate. Advocate. Act now.** This theme works on a global and individual level, so veterinarians can get involved too. Stronger advocacy and accountability are needed at all levels and the time to act is now.

What is the national theme for Animal Health Professionals?

This year New Zealand's animal health sectors are getting involved by promoting the importance of vaccinating animals in the fight against AMR.

How does vaccination prevent AMR?

Infection prevention and control is one of the key principles in reducing AMR, with vaccination being one of the most effective tools available to prevent infection.

Vaccinating animals prevents disease and helps to reduce AMR by:

- stopping animals becoming ill or dying from preventable diseases

- avoiding inappropriate antibiotic treatment for preventable viral infections
- preventing secondary bacterial infections by stopping infection with primary pathogens
- reducing complications that antibiotics can cause by avoiding the need for treatment
- preventing illness in humans (e.g. leptospirosis vaccines for cattle, or from exposure to resistant bacteria from animals)
- decreasing exposure of commensal and pathogenic bacteria to antibiotics in animals and humans
- keeping animals healthy so they don't need antibiotic treatment

Act now! You can get involved by educating clients and promoting vaccination

As trusted animal health advisers, veterinarians and other animal health professionals are in a unique position to influence animal owner's decisions around animal vaccination. You can help the fight against AMR by promoting vaccination of animals and educating clients about how vaccination reducing the risks of AMR developing.

Use these ideas to get your clinic involved in WAAW this November

- Run a vaccination promotion campaign in November
- Include a story about AMR and vaccination in newsletters and on social media
- Make a display about AMR and benefits of vaccination for your waiting room (print the [WAAW poster](#) to display in your waiting room)
- Include AMR in your continuing professional development plan
- Get your clinic team involved in developing a clinic antimicrobial stewardship policy
- Appoint an AMR champion for your clinic
- Review levels of vaccination among clients, and your clinic's overall use of antibiotics
- Look at MPI's AMR resources and AMR surveillance results

For more resources about AMR head to the MPI's AMR webpage

www.mpi.govt.nz/animals/veterinary-medicines-acvm/antimicrobial-resistance/ or get in touch with MPI's AMR team amrteam@mpi.govt.nz

