

do's and don'ts

ANTIMICROBIAL THERAPY



Responsible antimicrobial use preserves and optimizes the efficacy of antimicrobials and minimizes the selection for antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, thereby protecting public and animal health.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR JUDICIOUS ANTIMICROBIAL USE

- Consider and rule out nonbacterial causes
- Consider history and signalment when making a diagnosis of bacterial infection
- Consider other therapeutic options
- Investigate and treat underlying nonbacterial diseases
- Identify the likely pathogen and use the most narrow-spectrum agent available
- Utilize culture and susceptibility results
- Refer to published guidelines
- Monitor response to treatment and client compliance to ensure satisfactory outcome
- Perform further investigation before switching or combining antimicrobials if there is perceived treatment failure

For more information:
www.avma.org/AntibioticUse

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DERMATOLOGIC DISEASE

- Recommend cytologic evaluation of lesions in all cases of suspect pyoderma
- Microbial culture and susceptibility should be performed in conjunction with other diagnostics to investigate recurrent or refractory pyoderma
- Use topical antimicrobials and medicated shampoos as an alternative to systemic antimicrobials when possible

URINARY TRACT DISEASE

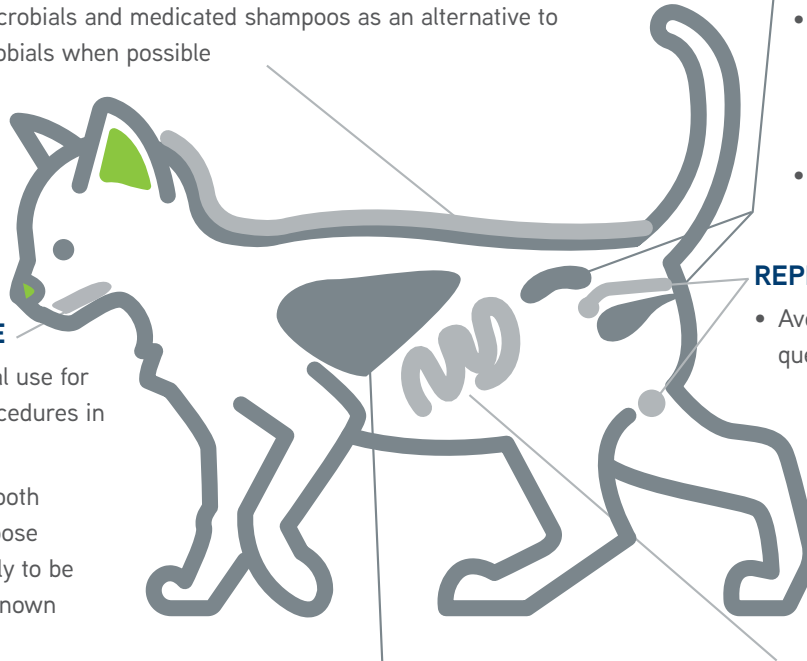
- Avoid diagnosing UTI based upon positive culture of free catch urine samples.
- Recommend culture before prescribing antimicrobials for cats <10 years of age with lower urinary tract signs
- Confirm infection with quantitative cultures

DENTAL DISEASE

- Avoid antimicrobial use for routine dental procedures in healthy patients
- If indicated (e.g. tooth root abscess), choose antimicrobials likely to be effective against known oral pathogens
- Antimicrobials are not a substitute for appropriate dental management

REPRODUCTIVE DISEASE

- Avoid antimicrobial use in healthy queens and toms prior to breeding



RESPIRATORY DISEASE

- In dogs and cats, use of antimicrobials is generally unnecessary for acute, uncomplicated URT disease
- Recommend diagnostics to identify an underlying cause for chronic respiratory disease (greater than 10 days duration)

GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASE

- Avoid use of antimicrobials in healthy pets with diarrhea; provide supportive therapy instead (e.g. diet, fluid therapy)
- Make a diagnosis before prescribing antimicrobials
- Fecal smear cytology is not reliable for diagnosis of enteropathogenic bacterial infections

PERI-OPERATIVE USE

- Adhere to best practices for infection control in the operating room
- Avoid prophylactic antimicrobials for routine surgeries
- If prophylactic antimicrobials are used, administer them before surgery and do not administer them beyond the perioperative period

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE

- Recommend preventive treatments for ectoparasite control to prevent infection and spread of vector-borne pathogens
- Avoid antimicrobial therapy in healthy animals that are seropositive for vector-borne pathogens; seropositivity does not imply active infection

