vetPartners

VetPartners Group Antibiotic Stewardship Report 2026



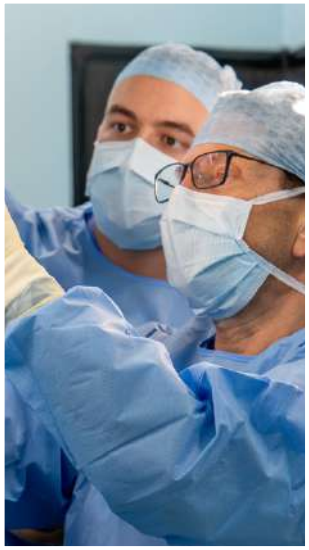




















VetPartners Group Antibiotic Stewardship Report 2026

Welcome

Welcome to our fifth VetPartners Antibiotic Stewardship Report, describing key activities and Quality Improvement work we have undertaken in the last year to progress and develop antibiotic stewardship across the group.

This report is for everyone; clients, all members of our practice teams, anyone working within the veterinary industry and beyond. We welcome collaboration and conversations on this topic, so please contact us at **clinical.board@vetpartnersgroup.com**

This report was published in November 2026.

A message from the VetPartners Clinical Board

We are thrilled to deliver the VetPartners Antibiotic Stewardship Report for 2026.

Every year we deliver this report to coincide with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week. This year's theme is "One Health, One Action: Prevent AMR Now". The WHO's Global Action Plan on AMR 2026-2036 has called on all countries and sectors to collaborate under a One Health approach to collectively tackle AMR. We are therefore proud to showcase the ongoing steps we are taking as a business in this report.

Our strength in working collectively is clear from the ways in which we continue to work together, learning from each other's successes. By our shared commitment to group-wide QI projects progressing our antibiotic stewardship, we continue to protect great clinical outcomes whilst safeguarding animal, human and environmental health into the future.

A huge thank you to our teams, who make the difficult decisions every day, both for the patients in front of them and for animal and human health, this work would not be possible without you.

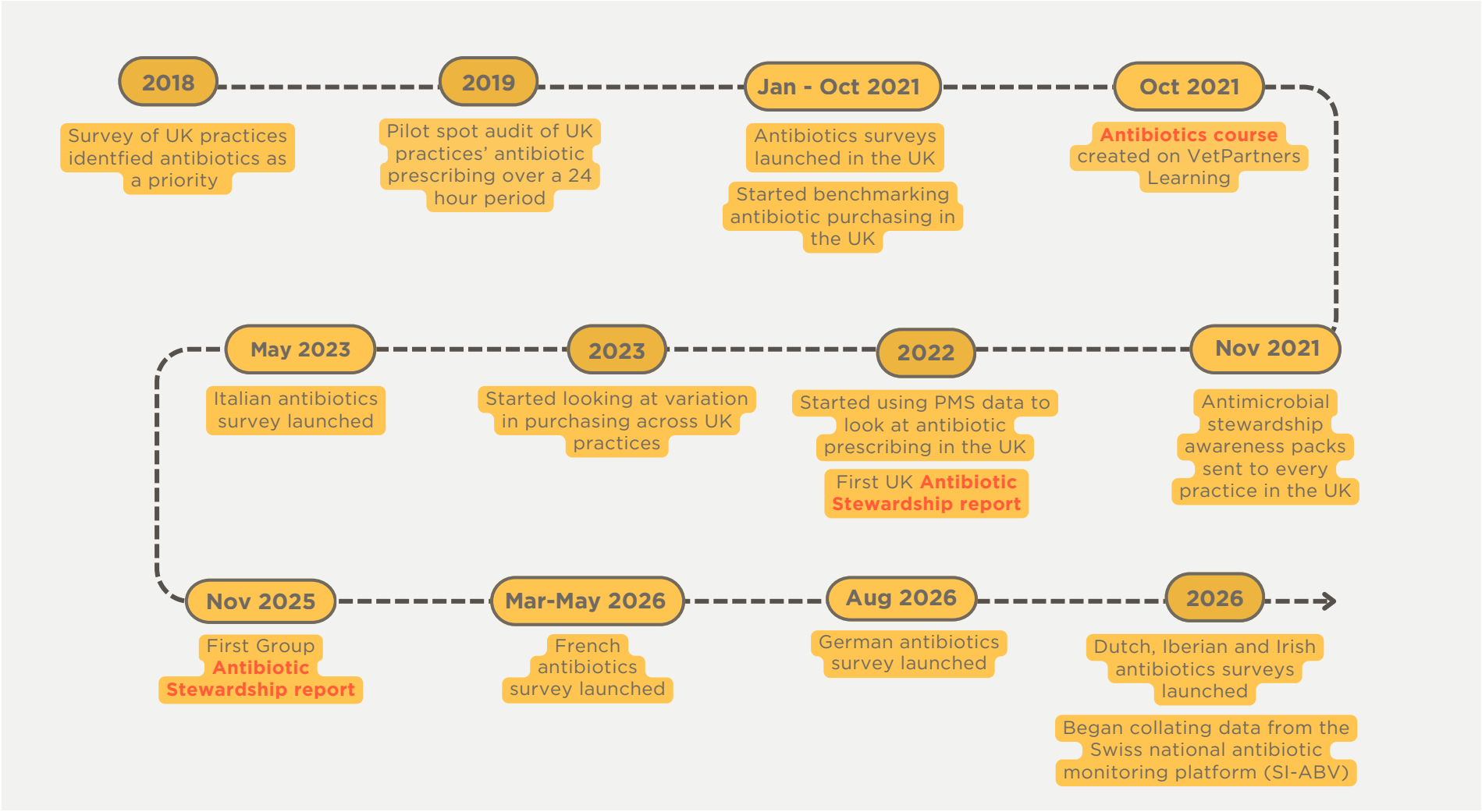
We hope that, like us, you find this report interesting and inspiring. We welcome ideas, feedback and possible partnerships moving forwards so please do get in touch using the email address provided.

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Eight years of antimicrobial stewardship at VetPartners

Celebrating our teams' group-wide effort to progress practice, tackle antimicrobial resistance and protect great patient outcomes



Key areas of antibiotic focus

vetPartners



Small Animal

Cats - **Convenient but critical - let's talk about cefovecin in cats**

Dogs - **Bloody Diarrhoea - is metronidazole the marvellous medicine?**

First-line antibiotics in dogs and cats

Avoiding antibiotic use in routine neutering

Farm Animal

Responsible use of antibiotics at lambing

Management of digital dermatitis, calf scour and disbudding

Utilisation of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

Equine

Use of Ceftiofur in Equine Practice

Use of Enrofloxacin in Equine Practice

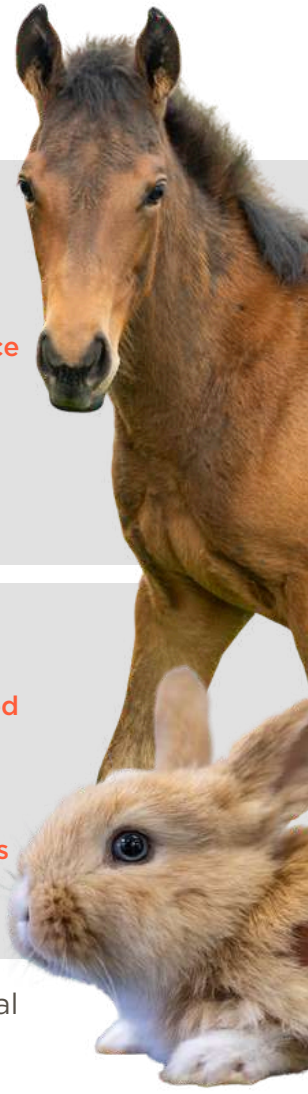
Doxycycline and trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole use

Perioperative antibiotics audit

Exotics

Rabbits - **Enrofloxacin – does licensed have to mean first-line?**

Guinea pigs and rats - **Wees and wheezes - targeted use of antibiotics**



For more information if you do not have access on VetPartners Learning, please contact your country Clinical Board Lead.

VetPartners group wide approach to antibiotic stewardship

The power of group-wide collaboration

Each year we strive to reduce, refine and, where appropriate, replace our antibiotic use across the UK and Europe. This is a collaborative group-wide effort to tackle antimicrobial resistance and progress practice at an international level via Quality Improvement (QI) work, learning from each other and exploring possible alternative treatments.

Working together across such a large network to meet a shared goal means we can make a real difference to veterinary healthcare. This is demonstrated by the great success we have achieved to date and our goals across the group moving into 2027.

How antibiotic prescribing frameworks vary across our group

As a group, a number of factors influence how and when our teams use antibiotics:

- Across the group the **legal and regulatory systems vary** and change is ongoing. Understanding the differences and similarities can help us to support each other more effectively.
- In some countries it is **compulsory to report use of antibiotics to the government** and therefore benchmark use in practice.
- All teams are able to **prescribe antibiotics but not necessarily dispense** them from the practice. These differences affect the way we communicate with our clients to ensure responsible antibiotic stewardship.
- The **availability of certain antibiotics**, including some critically important antibiotics, varies across the group, yet we manage very similar infections. By working together, we can decide what to use in place of these molecules to protect antibiotic efficacy moving forwards.

Some key headlines...

We've had **1,750 responses** over **15 surveys** covering antibiotic use in **7 species**, across **7 countries**

We have purchasing data covering **243 clinics** across **3 countries** for up to **5 years**

We have data on **51,189 antibiotic prescriptions** across **33 practices** over a **4 year period**

We have examined **PMS data** from **19,291 consults** in **55 practices** to identify antibiotic prescribing

VetPartners Group Antibiotic Stewardship Report 2026

France

Key considerations

- Teams operate under strict regulations driven by European law, French national regulations and the national "EcoAntibio" plans
- Prescribing critically important antibiotics (such as fluoroquinolones and 3rd/4th generation cephalosporins) is highly regulated and in most cases, legally requires a prior antibiogram
- Vets are now required to declare antimicrobial prescriptions and dispensations to state authorities via a dedicated national platform (Calypso)
- Managing clients' expectations, education surrounding antibiotic prescription alternatives or waiting for lab results before initiating treatment are ongoing challenges

Our French teams have recently completed an antibiotic survey to collect baseline data on the type and frequency of antibiotics used for certain conditions, with 110 responses collected in total (representing 47% of the vets from our French practices).

Antibiotic use for routine neutering

Percentage of vets who 'rarely' or 'never' use antibiotics for...



Cat castrates - **60%**
Cat spays - **50%**



Dog castrates - **47%**
Dog spays - **40%**

This has identified antibiotic stewardship in clean surgeries as a key priority area.

Antibiotic use for acute diarrhoea

Of vets surveyed, 88% don't use antibiotics as first-line treatment for acute diarrhoea.

Goals for 2027:

- Reduce routine antibiotic prophylaxis in clean surgeries
- Aim for a 10% reduction in the purchasing of cefovecin, fluoroquinolones, metronidazole and amoxiclav
- Base prescribing on diagnostics (cytology, culture, antibiogram) whenever possible

"In France we have a strong commitment to the 'One Health' approach. We have conducted a comprehensive survey this year of all VetPartners French veterinarians, to understand antibiotic use in small animal vet practices in more detail. Our 2026-2027 action plan focuses on responsible surgical antibioprophylaxis as a top priority, and on strictly limiting the use of critically important antibiotics, including cefovecin. We will also include dermatology in this action plan and focus on the responsible management of certain feline pathologies. Every unnecessary prescription we avoid is a win for animal, human, and environmental health"

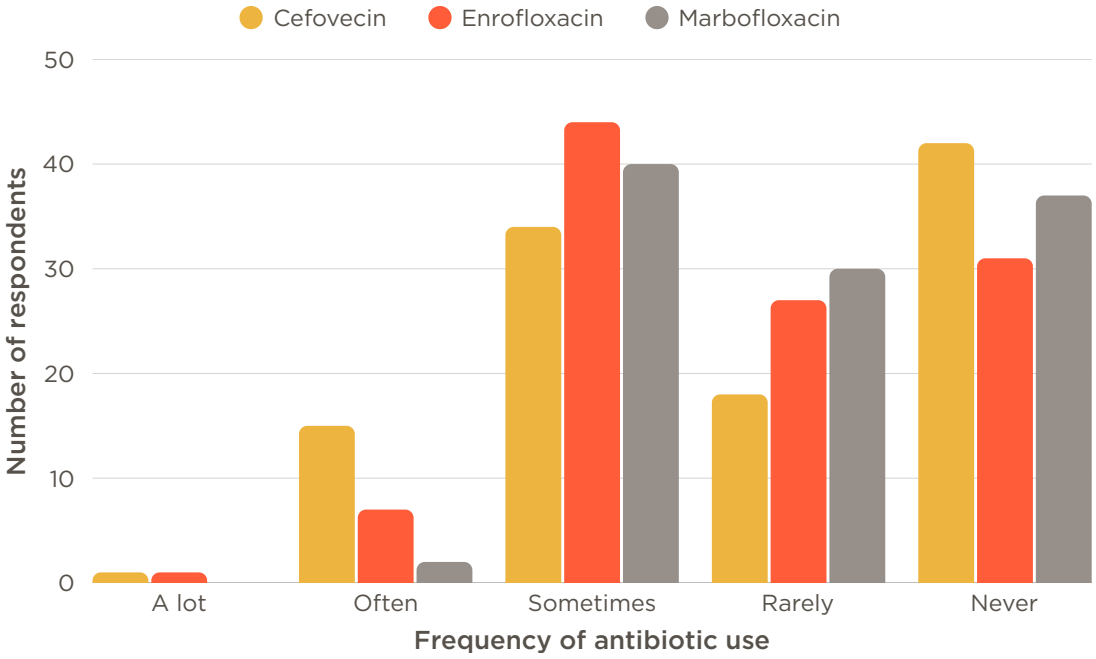
Dr Caroline Lepretre, Clinical Board Co-Lead, France



France

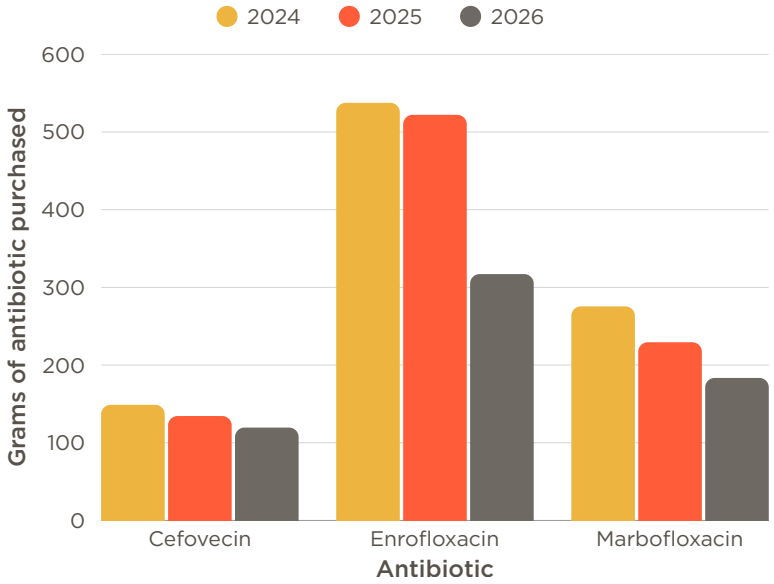
Reducing the use of critically important antibiotics

There was variation in the prescribing of critically important antibiotics among those surveyed, with the majority reporting they prescribe these 'sometimes', 'rarely' or 'never'.



Graph 1: Frequency of use of cefovecin, enrofloxacin and marbofloxacin based on survey data collected in 2026 from French small animal vets within VetPartners practices (n=110)

Data on the purchasing of antibiotics, in particular critically important antibiotics was also collated, with a 20% decrease in grams of cefovecin, a 41% decrease in enrofloxacin and 33% decrease in marbofloxacin between 2024 and 2026 (year-to-date comparison, January to the 30th September).



Graph 2: Reduction of critically important antibiotics purchased in grams based on data from French small animal VetPartners practices between 2024-2026 (year-to-date comparison, January to the 30th September)

The French Clinical Committee have finalised an antibiotics report summarising the key findings from their survey, highlighting key results and setting targets for antibiotic stewardship moving forwards. Please reach out to the board leads to find out more.



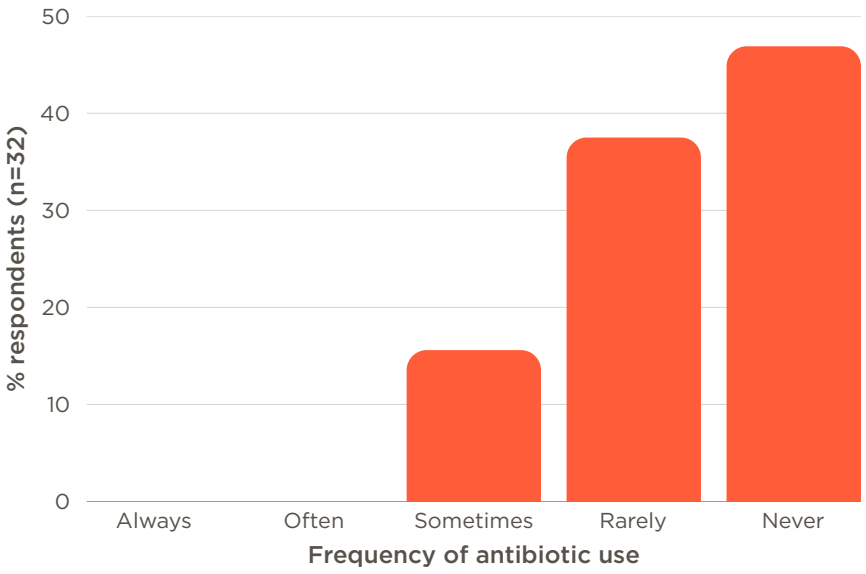
Germany

Key considerations

- Antibiotics are only available via a veterinarian
- Responsibility for antibiotic reporting lies with the veterinarian and reporting requirements for the various animal species are divided into levels
- A reporting requirement for cattle, pigs, chickens and turkeys has been in place for some time and was extended in 2026 to include species such as horses, sheep, goats, geese, ducks, rabbits raised for food and some fish
- The EU plans to require data collection for dogs, cats, and fur animals starting in January 2029. The first report must then be submitted in January 2030

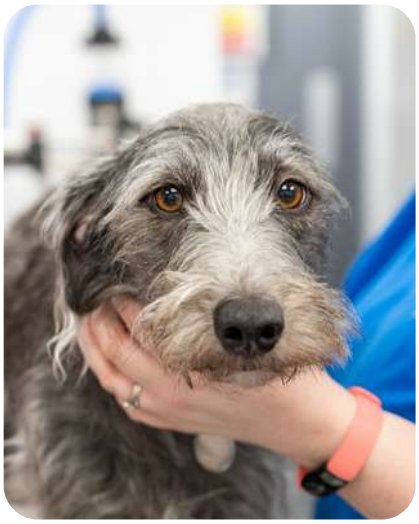
Three surveys on how vets are using antibiotics in different procedures and conditions, as well as how they are using certain antibiotics were carried out during August/September 2026. A total of 59 responses were received including colleagues treating small animals (n=34), farm animal (n=12) and equine (n=13).

Small animal - Non-febrile diarrhoea in dogs



Graph 3: Percentage of respondents who used antibiotics for non-febrile diarrhoea in dogs based on survey data from German vets within VetPartners practices collected in 2026 (n=32)

85% of respondents 'rarely' or 'never' used antibiotics for non-febrile diarrhoea in dogs



"Last year we continued to focus on the responsible use of antibiotics—with practical webinars on topics such as metronidazole for acute diarrhoea, antimicrobial stewardship, and the use of antibiotics for FLUTD. Through our first internal survey, we also gained insight into actual prescribing practices within the network for the first time. Based on this, we intend to take targeted action in 2027 and work together to achieve further reductions in antibiotic use."

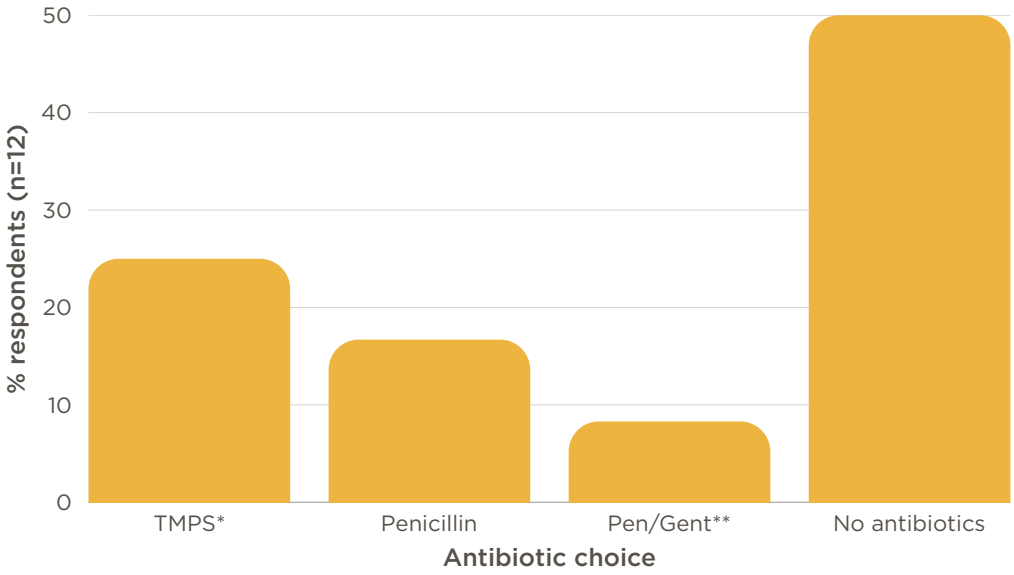




Dr Christine Waage and Dr Kerstin Kneuertz, Clinical Board Lead and Co-Lead, Germany

Germany

Equine - Fever without specific symptoms

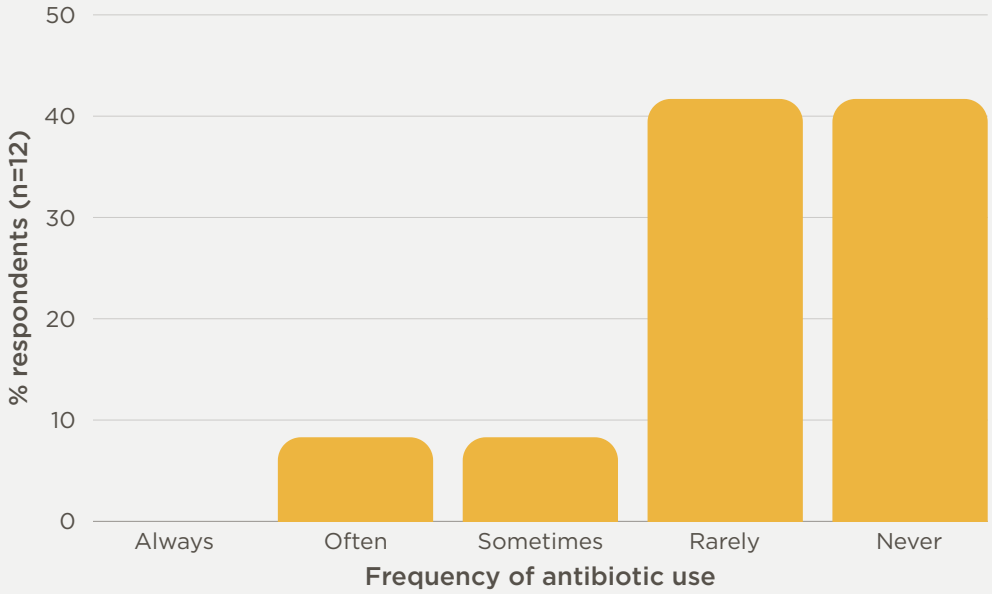


Graph 4: Percentage of respondents who used antibiotics for fever without specific symptoms in horses based on survey data from German vets within VetPartners practices collected in 2026 (n=12). *Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole **penicillin/gentamicin

50% used no antibiotics for fever without specific symptoms in horses



Farm animal - Endoscopic abomasal repositioning



Graph 5: Percentage of respondents who used antibiotics for endoscopic abomasal repositioning based on survey data from German vets within VetPartners practices collected in 2026 (n=12)

84% of respondents 'rarely' or 'never' used antibiotics for endoscopic abomasal repositioning



Iberia

Key considerations

- Antibiotic use is restricted based on EMA classifications, particularly Category B. However, a new legal amendment allows for use of Group B antibiotics in animals that are difficult to handle (e.g. feral cats or guard dogs) or in areas that are hard to access. In situations where no other treatment option exists, culture and sensitivity testing is not required.
- There is now generally tighter control over exceptional prescribing, more need for clinical justification and a greater expectation for culture and sensitivity testing
- Prescriptions are now more difficult to fill out, as there is now much more data to include and the use of any antibiotic must be reported to a central platform within 15 days. This has increased the administrative workload for vets, especially those managing hospitalised patients, who must handle large numbers of animals simultaneously over the course of several days
- High fines can be issued if vets fail to report the use of antibiotics on the monitoring platform

Members of the scientific committee conducted a survey of practice medical directors in Spain and Portugal in 2026 and received responses from 40% of clinics (25/63). The survey asked about antibiotics as well as other clinical topics.

Ongoing antimicrobial stewardship activities reported include:

- 44% of clinics are post op coding their surgeries
- 60% of clinics report increased use of culture and sensitivity
- 60% of clinics report choosing antibiotics according to EMA categories



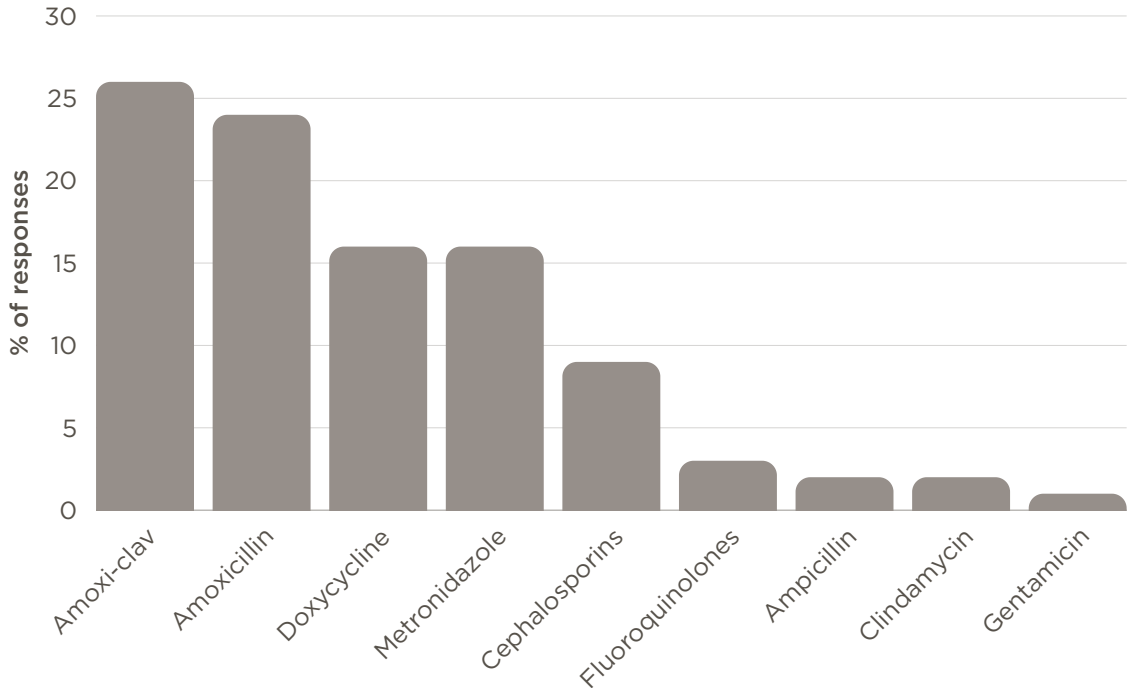
"I conduct training sessions for the teams every six months covering the rational use of antibiotics. In addition, documents outlining recommendations for antibiotic use in the clinic and operating room have been sent to the clinics, and the GRAM guidelines have been provided to the centres. I am also working with the Ministry of Health to develop treatment guidelines for diseases commonly treated with antibiotics. We have modified our management software to track the rate of postoperative complications, comparing cases with and without antibiotic use, which we hope to report in future."

Susana Garcia, Clinical Board Lead, Iberia



Iberia

First-line choice of antibiotic across clinics

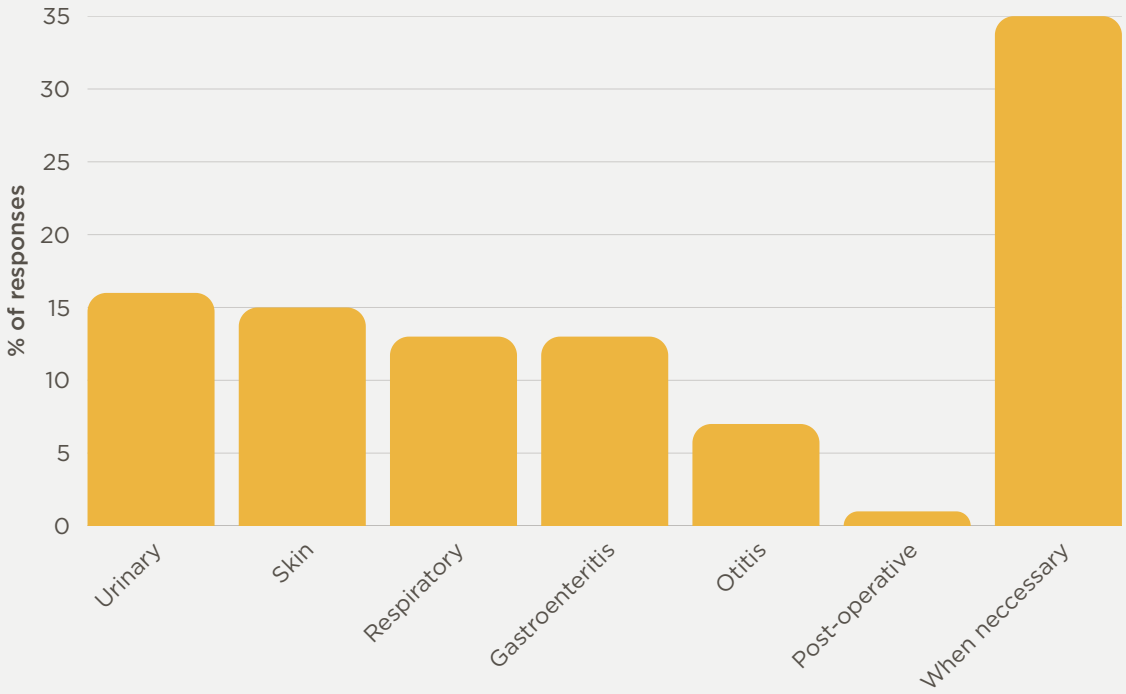


Graph 6: The percentage of survey responses indicating use of each antibiotic as a first-line choice based on data from 25 Iberian VetPartners practices in 2026.

Amoxiclav and amoxicillin were the most common first-line antibiotic choice among clinics surveyed



Use of antibiotics for a variety of clinical conditions



Graph 7: The percentage of survey responses indicating whether antibiotics would be used in a variety of clinical conditions based on data from 25 Iberian VetPartners clinics in 2026.



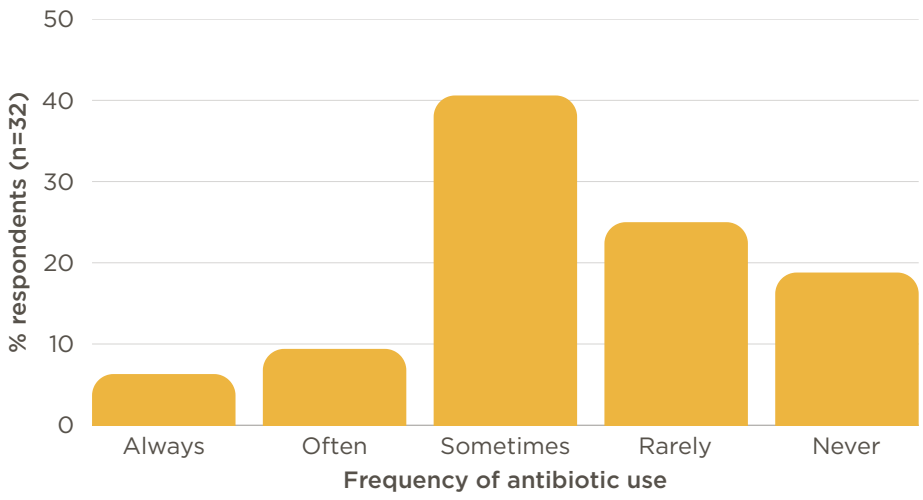
Ireland

Key considerations

- The Republic of Ireland follows EU veterinary medicines legislation, primarily Regulation (EU) 2019/6. Veterinary medicines are authorised by the Health Products Regulatory Authority, while their distribution, supply and use are overseen by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- In Northern Ireland, EU veterinary medicines legislation applies, alongside relevant UK domestic provisions. Under the post-Brexit Windsor Framework, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate plays a key role in the regulation, authorisation and oversight of veterinary medicines
- Since early 2025, ROI requires all antibiotic prescriptions for animals to go through a mandatory National Veterinary Prescription System (NVPS) to improve oversight

Ireland launched a survey at the VetPartners Ireland Congress in May 2026 asking about antibiotic use for procedures and conditions, as well as use of certain critically important antibiotics in small and farm animal species. The survey had 45 responses in total, a response rate of 47%.

Antibiotic use in Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD)



Graph 8: Frequency of antibiotic use in Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) based on survey data from Irish vets within VetPartners practices in 2026 (n=32)

44% of respondents 'rarely' or 'never' used antibiotics for FLUTD



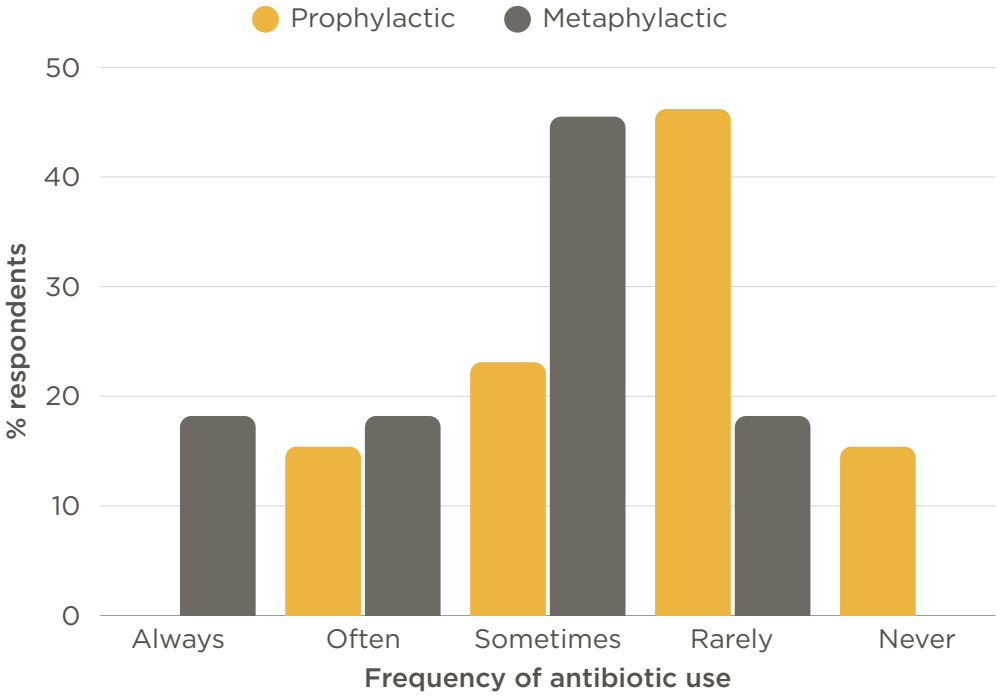
"As veterinary professionals, we have a responsibility to ensure that antibiotics are used responsibly and effectively to protect animal health and preserve their efficacy for the future. These antibiotic use surveys, across our practices provide an important baseline, helping us understand our current prescribing patterns, identify opportunities for improvement, and define where we want to be. By using this insight to drive evidence-based decisions and consistent best practice, we can strengthen antibiotic stewardship, support our veterinary teams, and ultimately deliver better outcomes for our patients."

Austin Donnelly, Clinical Board Lead, Ireland



Ireland

Prophylactic and metaphylactic antibiotic use for calf pneumonia

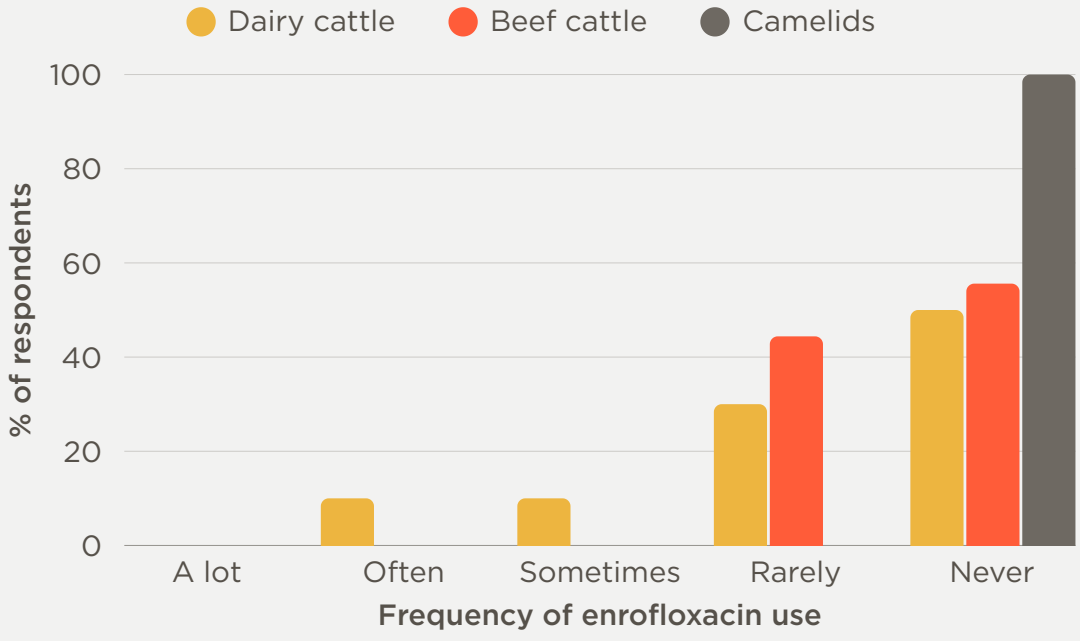


62% 'rarely' or 'never' used prophylactic antibiotics for calf pneumonia



Graph 9: Frequency of both prophylactic (13 respondents) and metaphylactic (11 respondents) antibiotic use for calf pneumonia based on survey data collected in 2026 from Irish vets within VetPartners practices

Frequency of enrofloxacin use in farm species



63% of responses across all three species indicated that enrofloxacin was 'never' used



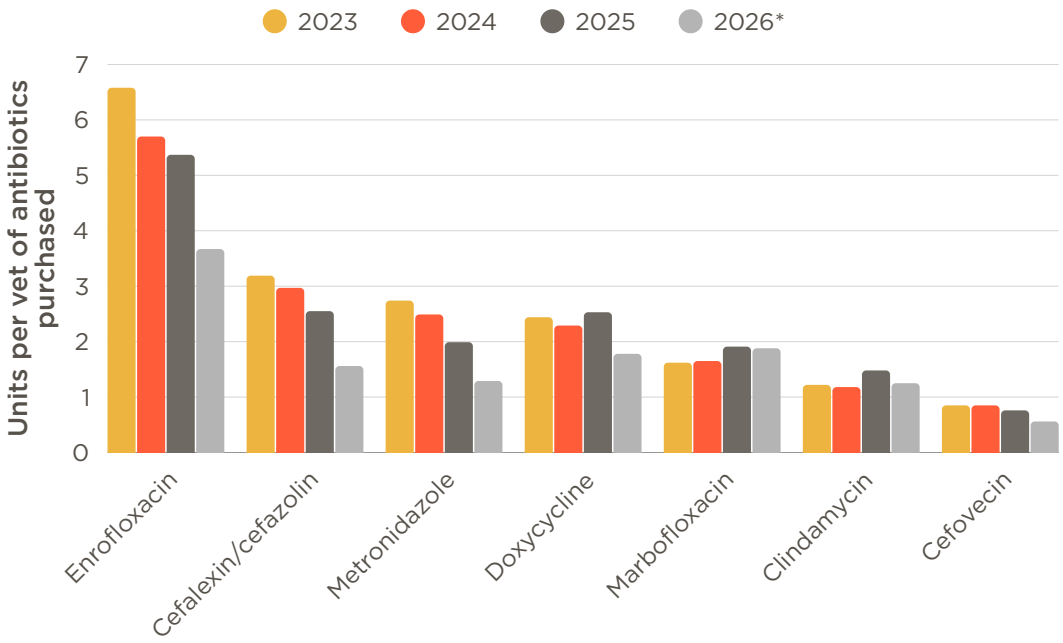
Graph 10: Frequency of enrofloxacin use in dairy cattle (10 respondents), beef cattle (9 respondents) and camelids (5 respondents) based on survey data collected in 2026 from Irish vets within VetPartners practices

Italy

Key considerations

- Daily practice operates under the control of the Ministry of Health through the mandatory Electronic Veterinary Prescription (Ricetta Elettronica Veterinaria - REV) system
- European regulations prohibit the veterinary use of certain critical antimicrobials reserved exclusively for human health
- Antimicrobial prescriptions through REV last for five days and cannot be repeated, which avoids inappropriate use of antimicrobials by the owner
- Antibiotics are mostly dispensed by external pharmacies; therefore, maintaining close communication with pet owners to ensure full course compliance remains another key focus

Looking at antibiotic purchasing data



Graph 11: Units per vet of antibiotics purchased based on data from small animal Italian VetPartners practices between 2023-2026. *2026 numbers are provisional, based on data for the first half of the year which has been doubled

Purchasing headlines

Overall antibiotic purchasing in units per vet decreased from 48.32 in 2023 to 34.73 in 2026*

Cefovecin decreased 35% (0.85 units per vet in 2023 to 0.56 in 2026*)

Fluoroquinolones decreased 34% (8.54 units per vet in 2023 to 5.63 in 2026*)

The recent **Italian report on antibiotic use** has analysed and collated results from a survey of Italian vets in 2026 (49% response rate), data on antimicrobial prescriptions extracted from the REV system and units of antimicrobials purchased between 2023 and 2026. Results collectively show a reduction in total prescriptions overall, more informed use of antibiotics across a wide range of areas and decreased use of critically important antibiotics.

"Over the past year, we surveyed our clinicians' prescribing habits and analysed antimicrobial data from both the Electronic Veterinary Prescription system and in-clinic usage. Between 2023 and 2026, we achieved a reduction in overall antibiotic prescriptions and reduced the use of critically important antimicrobials. This data-driven approach embodies the 'One Health' principle - safeguarding animal, human, and environmental health together."

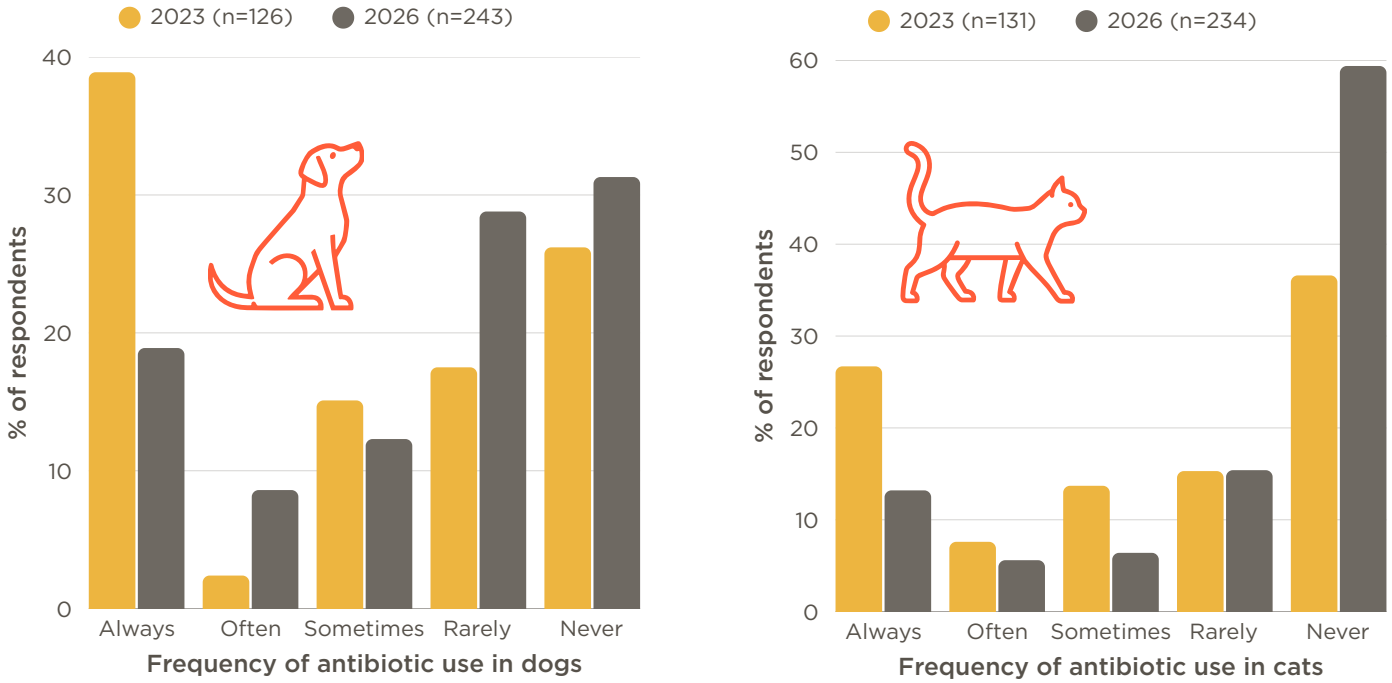
Dr Francesca Bresciani, Clinical Board Lead, Italy



Italy

Antibiotic use for neutering in dogs and cats

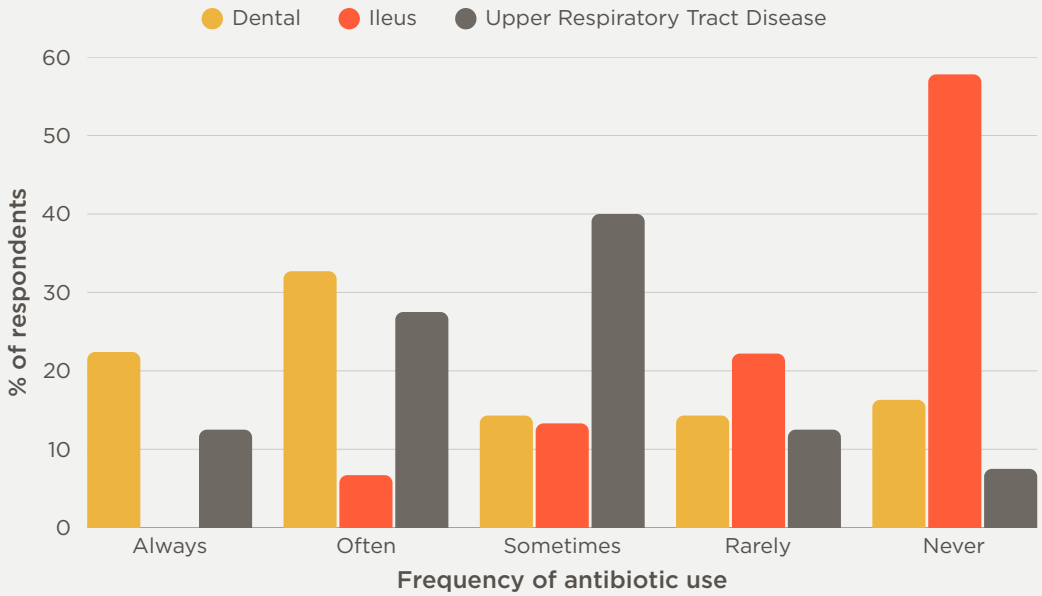
The proportion of vets who 'rarely' or 'never' use antibiotics in dog neuters increased from 44% in 2023 to 60% in 2026, for cats this percentage increased from 50% in 2023 to 75% in 2026, increasing by 38% and 49% respectively.



Graph 12: The frequency with which respondents reported using antibiotics for routine neuters in dogs (left) and cats (right) in Italian VetPartners practices in 2023 and 2026.

Antibiotic use for common diseases in rabbits

Antibiotic prescribing varied across rabbit dentals, ileus and upper respiratory tract disease.



The Italian Scientific Committee have produced an antibiotics report summarising the key findings from their data analysis. **The full report can be accessed here.**



Graph 13: The frequency with which respondents reported using antibiotics for dentals (49 respondents), ileus (45 respondents) and upper respiratory tract disease (40 respondents) in rabbits based on survey data from Italian vets within VetPartners practices collected in 2026.

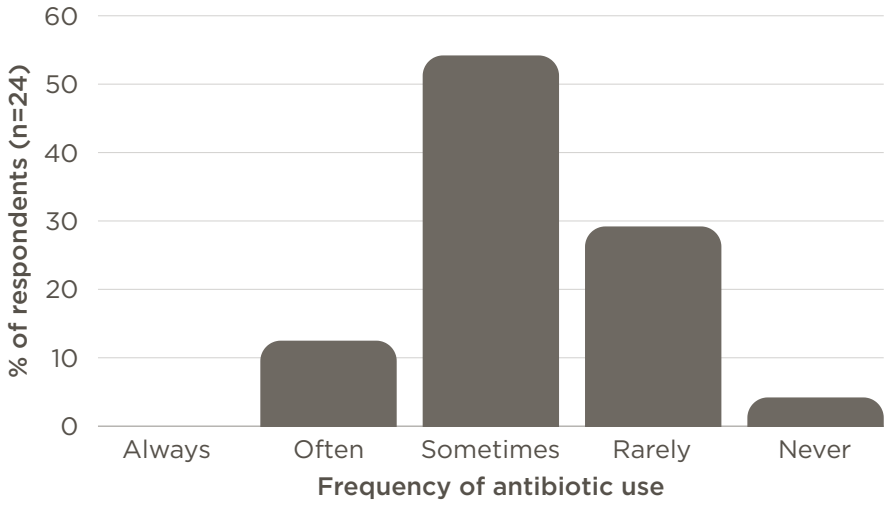
Netherlands

Key considerations

- Antibiotic use is subject to strict government regulations
- The Royal Dutch Veterinary Association (KNMvD) has classified antibiotics into three categories:
  - First choice – may be used empirically based on the clinical indication
  - Second choice - may only be used when the necessity for their use has been justified
  - Third choice - may only be used based on an antibiogram, when no alternatives are available and exclusively for the individual animal concerned
- The Netherlands has a clear antibiotic formulary that serves as guidance for veterinary practitioners. Consequently, antibiotics such as cefovecin and enrofloxacin are now rarely used
- Veterinarians are authorised to dispense medicines directly from their practices and are therefore personally responsible for dispensing the correct, precisely measured quantity of medication

A survey was conducted to find out how and when vets are using antibiotics generally and for certain procedures and conditions in small animal patients. A total of 24 responses were received (a response rate of 26%).

Use of antibiotics for cat flu



Graph 14: The frequency with which respondents reported using antibiotics for cat flu cases based on survey data from Dutch vets within VetPartners practices collected in 2026 (n=24).

54% of respondents 'sometimes' use antibiotics for cat flu cases with 33% using them 'rarely' or 'never'



"We sent out surveys to all our colleagues, freshly graduated and experienced, to investigate when antibiotics are being used in the most common illnesses in practices, such as in diarrhoea, cat flu, cat abscesses and dermatological issues (topical vs oral). Understanding why antibiotics are being prescribed can help us reduce unnecessary use of antibiotics. Working on evidence-based protocols will help reduce antibiotic use."

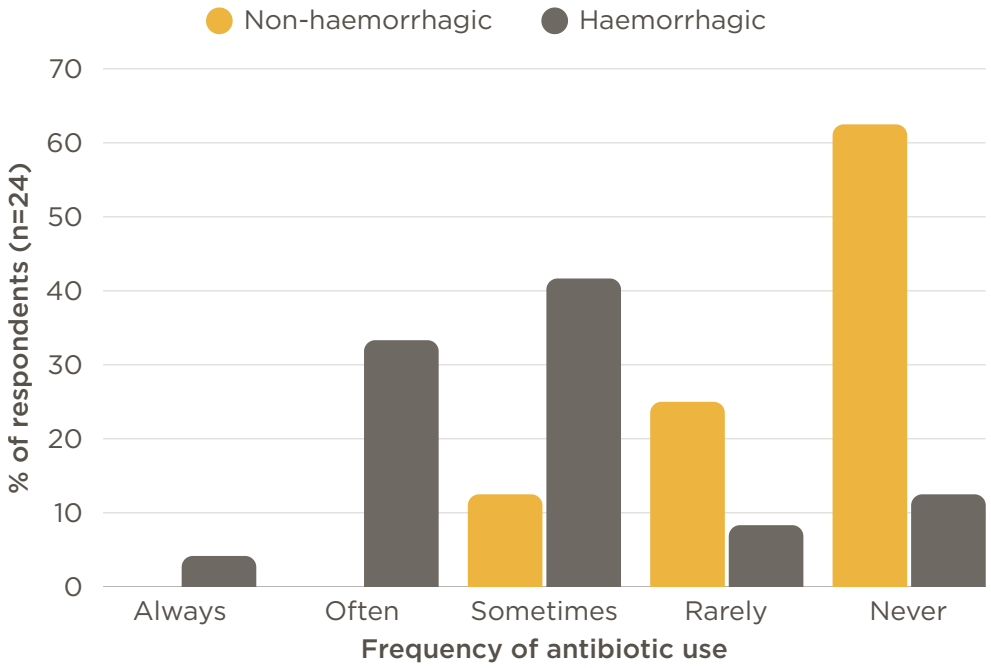




Aline Rodts and Robin Wormhoudt, Clinical Board Leads, Netherlands

Netherlands

Diarrhoea in dogs - Non-haemorrhagic (non-pyrexic) verses haemorrhagic

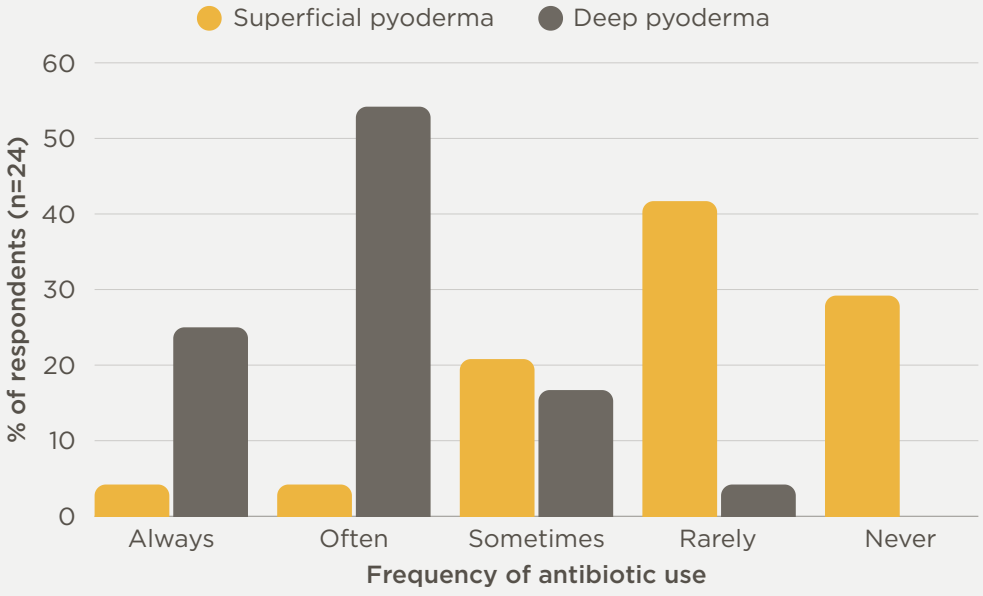


88% used antibiotics 'rarely' or 'never' for non-haemorrhagic (non-pyrexic) diarrhoea in dogs



Graph 15: The frequency with which respondents reported using antibiotics for non-haemorrhagic (non-pyrexic) diarrhoea verses haemorrhagic diarrhoea in dogs based on survey data from Dutch VetPartners vets collected in 2026 (n=24).

Pyoderma in dogs - Deep verses superficial



71% of respondents 'rarely' or 'never' used antibiotics for superficial pyoderma in dogs



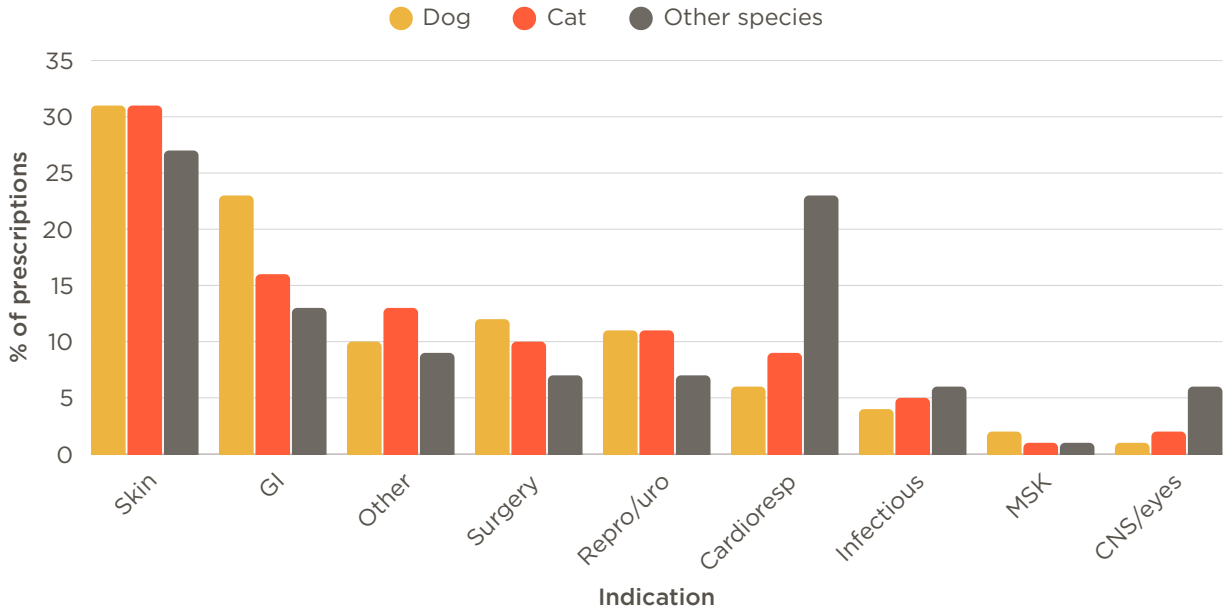
Graph 16: The frequency with which respondents reported using antibiotics for superficial and deep pyoderma in dogs based on survey data from Dutch VetPartners vets collected in 2026 (n=24).

Switzerland

Key considerations

- In Switzerland there is an obligation to declare antibiotic prescriptions and why they were issued (e.g. dermatology, surgery etc) through the national antibiotic monitoring platform (SI-ABV)
- The number of animals seen in consultations over the year is also submitted, so the percentage of cases receiving antibiotics is known
- Currently veterinarians are not subject to any restrictions on their antibiotic prescribing, but this is expected to change in the future

Our Swiss VetPartners practices have collated their data from the national antibiotic monitoring platform (SI-ABV). So far, we have data for 10 practices dating back to January 2023, and for a further three practices from mid-2024 onwards covering a total of 23,868 prescriptions. Among the 10 practices with complete data for the full three years, there has been a 23% decrease in the number of prescriptions between 2023 and 2025 (from 8224 to 6345).



Graph 17: The percentage of prescriptions issued per indication based on data from the national antibiotic monitoring platform for 13 Swiss VetPartners practices.

"We are fortunate in Switzerland to have a mandatory database that has been recording antibiotic prescriptions since 2023. Thus, this allows us to see that the trend is downward in the number of antibiotics used per year. The use of critical antibiotics remains the least used category. We need to work to reduce the use of metronidazole in GI tract diseases and cefovecin in cats. One of the issues highlighted is the possibility of improved treatment adherence in cats. The use of antibiotics remains a challenge; the balance between prescribing and risking complications, including the development of resistance, is a choice that is not always easy in practice"



Dr Maeva Roman, Clinical Board Lead, Switzerland

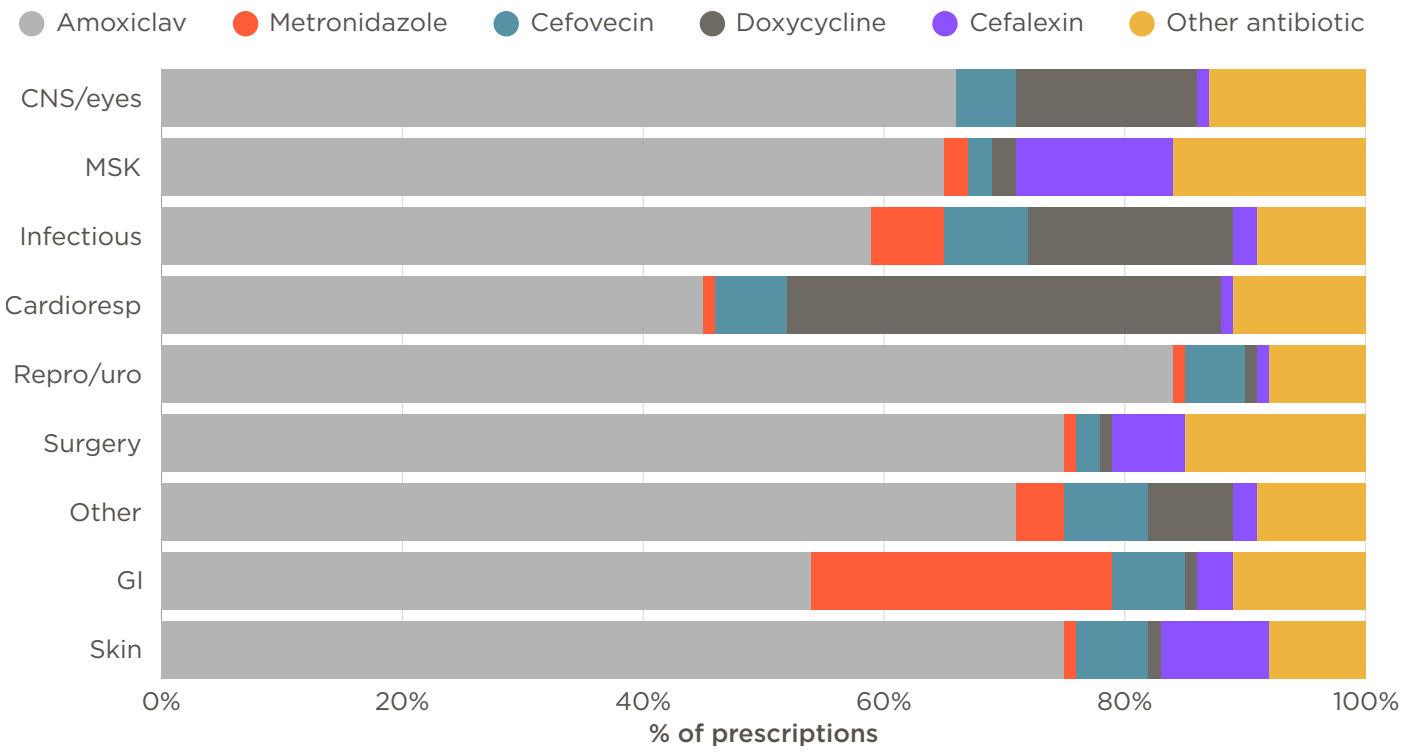
Switzerland

Antibiotic prescribing across species and indications

Data from the national antibiotic monitoring platform (IS-ABV) for 13 practices were used to look at the different antibiotics prescribed across dogs, cats and other species (Table 1) and which antibiotics were prescribed for different indications (Graph 18).

Table 1: Antibiotics issued across all prescriptions for dogs (n=10,536), cats (n=12,484) and other species (n=474) based on national antibiotic monitoring data from 13 Swiss VetPartners practices. EMA Category B (restrict) antibiotics are highlighted orange, C (caution) are highlighted yellow and D (prudence) are highlighted light grey.

Antibiotic	Dog (n=10,536)	Cat (n=12,484)	Other (n=474)	Total (n=23,858)
Amoxiclav	68%	72%	1%	68%
Metronidazole	10%	3%	1%	6%
Cefovecin	1%	10%	0%	6%
Doxycycline	4%	6%	5%	5%
Cephalexin	7%	2%	0%	4%
Marbofloxacin	2%	2%	38%	3%
Amoxicillin	2%	3%	0%	2%
Enrofloxacin	1%	1%	46%	2%
Metronidazole/spiramycin	2%	1%	0%	2%
Cefazolin	1%	1%	0%	1%
Clindamycin	1%	1%	0%	1%
Other	1%	2%	8%	1%



Graph 18: Antibiotics issued across all prescriptions for a range of indications based on national antibiotic monitoring data from 13 Swiss VetPartners practices.

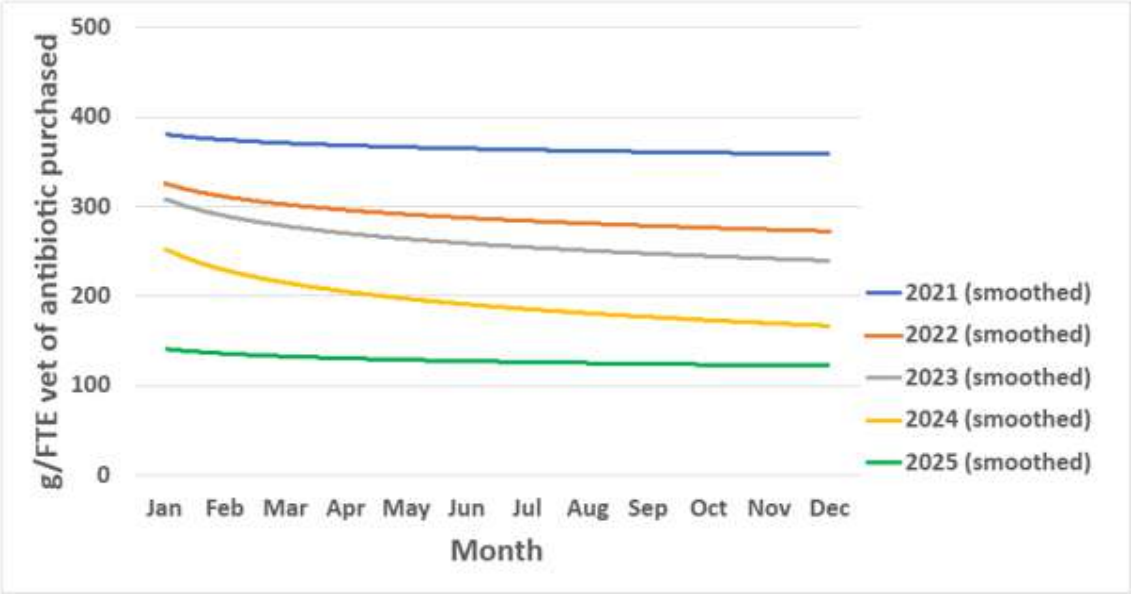
United Kingdom

For the past five years in the UK, we have been monitoring purchasing over time relative to the number of prescribers (full-time equivalent vets – FTE[Vet]) in our organisation. We have shown that most of the antibiotic products purchased are prescribed, making this a good base-line measure.

By looking at antibiotic purchasing over time in a large-scale way, our teams can gauge the difference they are making, and we can share our successes and how work is evolving with others in the profession and beyond. We are thrilled to see a sustained reduction in our antibiotic purchasing as our teams progress care, protect clinical outcomes and safeguard antibiotic usage for the future.

Antibiotic purchasing across the VetPartners UK team between January and December each year





Graph 19: Antibiotic purchasing by month for 2021 – 2025 for practices in the UK measured in grams per full-time equivalent vet [FTE]

Between 2021-2025 we reduced our antibiotic purchasing in the UK by 65%

A reduction of 34% has been achieved between 2024-2025

"There has been a huge variety of different antibiotic stewardship projects across the group since the last report, which has been so fantastic to see. Collaboration is a vital part of One Health, and I've loved working with colleagues across different countries on various antibiotic Quality Improvement activities this year. Through sharing our successes, our challenges and our different approaches we can continue progressing antibiotic stewardship together."

Dr Natalie Robinson, Clinical Data Manager, UK Clinical Board

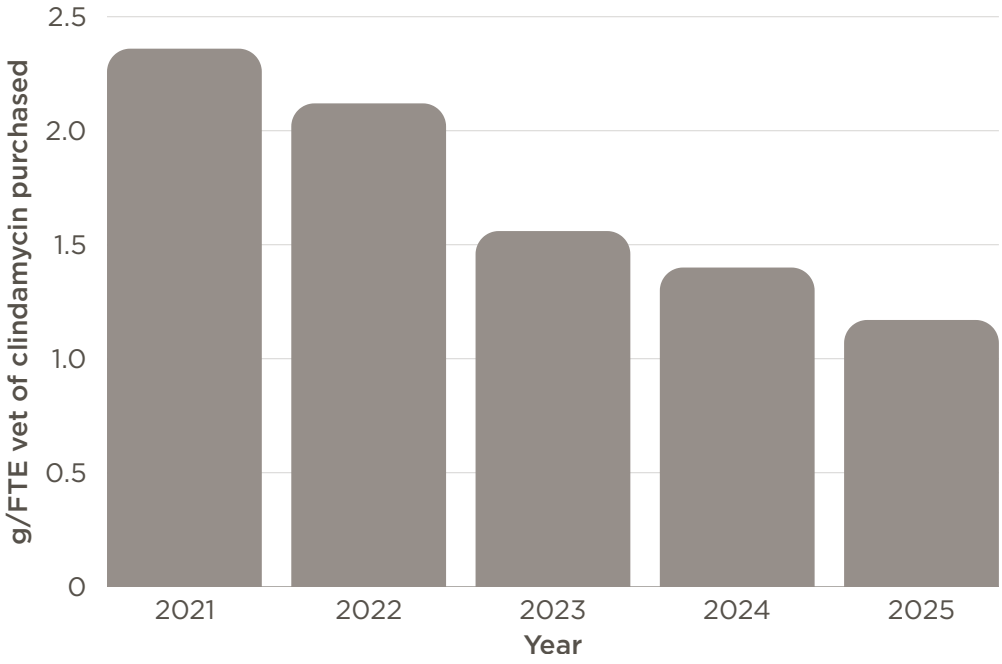


United Kingdom

Key considerations

- Prescribing is regulated by the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMRs) and governed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)
- There are four distribution classes for veterinary products in the UK and antibiotics are in the POM-V category (Prescription Only Medicine - Veterinarian) meaning they can only be prescribed by a vet to animals "under their care"
- Vets are also bound by the Cascade under which licensed medications should be prescribed in preference to unlicensed ones. However, for critically important antimicrobials, the VMR facilitate reservation of these medicines and encourage us to cascade, case-by-case to off-licence alternatives, particularly when indicated by culture and sensitivity or supported by a good evidence base for the relevant clinical condition
- In Northern Ireland a veterinary prescription for an antibiotic must be used within five days

Small animal - Clindamycin purchasing



Antibiotic headlines

Cefovecin purchasing decreased 50% (2021-25)

Enrofloxacin purchasing decreased 68% (2021-25)

Amoxiclav purchasing decreased 32% (2021-25)

Metronidazole purchasing decreased 23% (2024-25)

Graph 20: Clindamycin purchasing from 2021 to 2025 for small animal practices in the UK measured in grams per full-time equivalent vet [FTE]

"We've had another fantastic year of antibiotic stewardship projects across the group. I've really enjoyed seeing teams come together to share ideas, learn from one another and find ways to continually improve how we use and protect antibiotics. As with so many important things in life, collaboration is at the heart of One Health. It's inspiring to see such enthusiasm, commitment, and shared learning across our different teams and the species we treat, as we continue working toward our common goal of responsible antibiotic use."

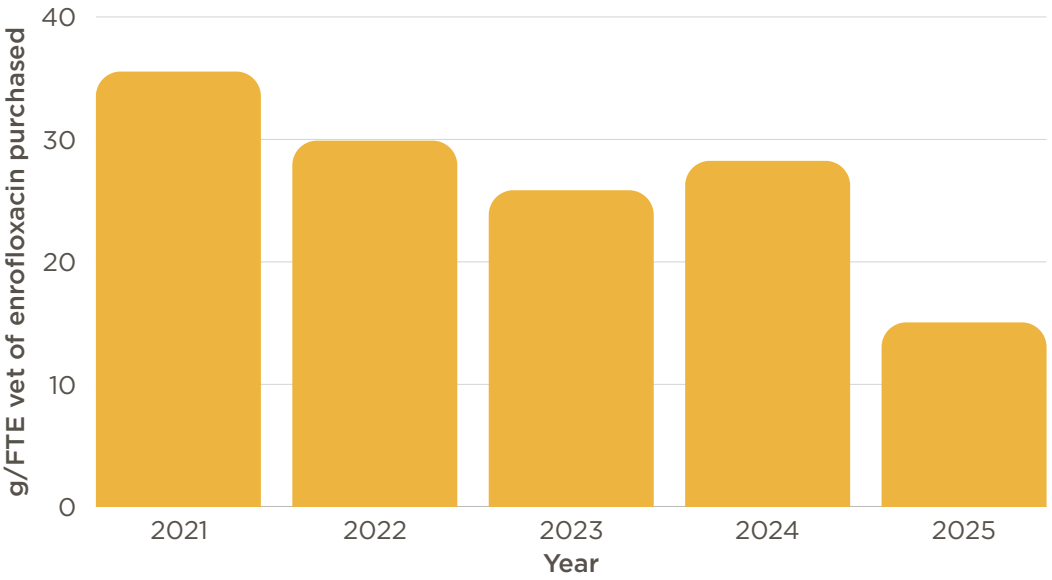
Caroline Scobie, Clinical Board Lead, United Kingdom



United Kingdom

Equine - Enrofloxacin purchasing

From 2021 to 2025 overall there has been a 58% decrease in purchasing of enrofloxacin in g/FTE vet (from 35.54 in 2021 to 15.06g/FTE vet in 2025), with a 47% decrease in the last full year (from 28.25 in 2024 to 15.06g/FTE vet in 2025).





Graph 21: Enrofloxacin purchasing from 2021 to 2025 for equine practices in the UK measured in grams per full-time equivalent vet [FTE]

Farm Animal - Paromomycin purchasing

Between April 2024 and March 2026 there was a 20% reduction in the purchasing of paromomycin. We are also looking at the use of other antibiotics, scour/cryptosporidium vaccines and anti-protozoal purchasing alongside this as part of a wider project on calf scour.





Graph 22: Paromomycin purchasing by month from April 2024 to March 2026 for farm animal practices in the UK measured in grams per full-time equivalent vet [FTE]

Using Quality Improvement to make a difference

Engaging with Quality Improvement (QI) activities like those featured in this report can have numerous benefits for our teams, patient and clients. Working together to implement QI processes to support good antimicrobial stewardship offers us the chance to progress outcomes, safeguard human and animal health and protect our clinical freedom.

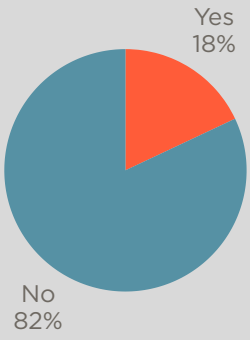
While many QI projects are happening at a local level, this report demonstrates that these can extend across the whole group. The extensive survey data we have collected this year has helped to describe what we currently do and identify areas where we can continue to progress our responsible antimicrobial use while protecting patient outcomes across the group.

Antibiotic audit case study from Westway Vets

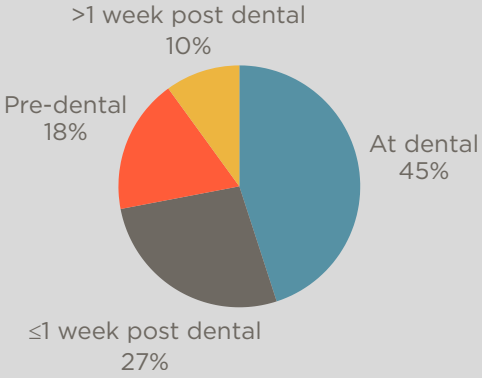
Westway Vets in the UK audited their antibiotic usage for dentals in 2025 and have kindly shared the results to give some examples of what we can find out from this type of data.

Results such as these can be used for the basis of a practice meeting to explore areas such as how prescribing habits vary and whether antibiotic use can be reduced or adjusted while still protecting patient outcomes.

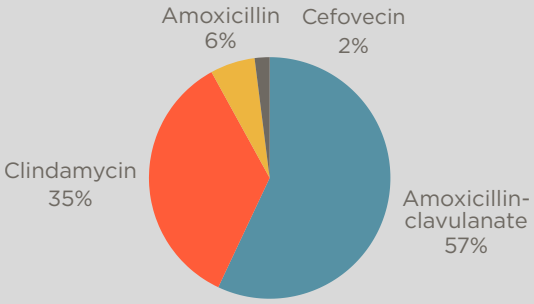
Were antibiotics prescribed within 14 days before or after a dental procedure?



When were antibiotics prescribed?



Which antibiotics were prescribed?



"This kind of audit might take an hour or two, but it can be incredibly valuable in showing us how work is actually done in our practice. It was a great example of where the number of cases prescribed antibiotics was higher than we would have estimated. Sometimes there's a gap between what we think we're doing and what's actually happening.
This gives us a useful baseline. The fun bit is always what happens next: the conversations, ideas, and small changes we can make to how we work to help strengthen our antibiotic stewardship. We really enjoy quality improvement work in our practice. We hope this work will help us to improve patient outcomes, support more consistent care, and make our work more rewarding as we learn and improve together."



Caroline Scobie, Veterinary Surgeon, Westway Vets, United Kingdom











Contact Us

As part of our antibiotic stewardship activities, we are pleased to be collaborating with other groups across the veterinary profession and beyond, to share our work and the work of others.

Whether you are part of the VetPartners team or not, if you are working in this area, interested in our data or are looking for partners passionate about this subject, please get in touch using the contact details shown below.

We are extremely grateful to all those involved in the production of this report and we are proud to have such incredible colleagues working within VetPartners.

We couldn't achieve all we do without you – thank you all.

Email: **clinical.board@vetpartnersgroup.com**

Visit: **VetPartners Group**, **MyVetPartners** or **VetPartners Learning** to learn more.

Learn about VetPartners work on other aspects of sustainability **here**.