Animal medicines in the UK

expertise | innovation | opportunity

Securing the UK’s future as a global centre of excellence for animal medicines

Animal Health Manifesto 2017
We are an innovative, high skills-based sector; our members – who make up around 90% of the industry – employ around 2,000 people directly in the UK and indirectly support many thousands in related industries. The sector is valued at approximately £625m of B2B sales every year. NOAH membership includes both global multinationals and national companies who produce, import and market products within the UK.

Our medicines protect the health and welfare of all of our animals – whether pets or on UK farms. They have a right to be treated with appropriate medicines to protect their health and welfare, to prevent disease and reduce suffering, and to ensure they can continue to provide companionship or to produce safe, nutritious food that the UK public expects. Indeed, it is a legal requirement that animals receive appropriate treatment when sick.

We are, quite rightly, a highly regulated industry. All of our animal medicines undergo strict scientific assessment before they can be sold. This is carried out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), a Defra agency, or, currently, by the European Medicines Agency for EU-wide authorisations.

As we leave the EU, our priority is a vibrant and innovative UK animal medicines sector. The UK is in a strong position to be a global centre of excellence for animal medicines, supporting both cutting-edge product developments and a regulatory model to benefit our local and international trade. We have the opportunity to work towards a regulatory and societal climate which leads, encourages and values innovation, allowing companies to develop new and improved medicines for animal health and welfare and helping ensure future UK food production.

NOAH is committed to limiting the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by promoting responsible use and stewardship of antibiotics, to help preserve them for future generations. NOAH actively supports a ‘One Health’ approach and provides scientific and technical expertise in collaboration with our colleagues in the veterinary and human medical sectors. We all share responsibility in ensuring that antibiotics are used appropriately.

As an industry, we are working not only to protect access to safe, effective medicines for our animals but also to encourage innovative product development. Incentives to develop innovative new treatments, such as vaccines, and better diagnostics must include the animal health sector. Improving the availability and usage of vaccines can also help in the fight against AMR.

Our vision is a thriving future for the UK animal medicines sector – a future in which vets, SQPs1, pet owners and farmers have access to the range of medicines needed to maintain animal health and protect welfare.

The exit from the EU means that an appropriate UK regulatory system firmly based on internationally recognised science and technical expertise, aligned, where necessary, with the new EU legislation for veterinary medicines (currently in the EU consultation process) is more important than ever. On behalf of our members, it is vital for the UK economy and society that the EU Exit is achieved in a manner that will allow the opportunities it presents to come to fruition.

Together with our members, we stand ready to engage fully to assist UK government in identifying solutions to issues arising from our exit from the EU.

We invite you to support our animal medicines sector for the benefit of all people and animals in the UK.

---

1 Suitably qualified persons, who can prescribe certain medicines

NOAH represents the UK animal medicines industry and aims to promote the benefits of safe, effective, quality medicines for the health and welfare of all animals.

Our vision is an environment that delivers a thriving animal medicines sector:

- Supporting trade and innovation.
- Safeguarding animal health and welfare and public health and food safety; ensuring that UK veterinarians and animal keepers continue to have access to a wide range of appropriate veterinary medicines.
- Businesses have access to skilled staff – the right workforce they need.
- Product research and development is incentivised within a regulatory system which continues to be one of the most stringent in the world — making UK the first choice world-leading regulatory authority.
- Companies are encouraged to do business in the UK as unnecessary regulatory burdens are recognised and removed.
- Transitional arrangements to support business continuity post EU Exit are built, utilising links with specialist EU infrastructure where necessary and appropriate.
NOAH represents the UK animal medicines industry and aims to promote the benefits of safe, effective, quality medicines for the health and welfare of all animals.

As we leave the EU, our priority is that the EU Exit is achieved in a manner that is vital for the UK economy and society that envisages animal medicines (currently in the EU market) to enter the food chain – essentially going to waste. This would be at risk to people, animals and the environment.

NOAH is committed to limiting the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by promoting responsible use and stewardship of antibiotics, to help preserve them for future generations. NOAH actively supports a ‘One Health’ approach and provides scientific and technical expertise in collaboration with our colleagues in the veterinary and human medical sectors. We all aim to ensure that antibiotics are used appropriately.

Our vision is an environment that delivers a thriving animal medicines sector:

- Supporting trade and innovation.
- Safeguarding animal health and welfare and public health and food safety.
- Ensuring that UK veterinarians and animal keepers continue to have access to a wide range of appropriate veterinary medicines.
- Businesses have access to adequate staff – the right workforce for the right jobs.
- Product research and development is incentivised within a regulatory system which continues to be one of the most efficient in the world – making the UK the first-choice world leader in this important science.
- Companies are encouraged to do business in the UK, under unnecessary regulatory burdens.
- Transitional arrangements to support business continuity post EU Exit are built, utilising established technical expertise and infrastructure where necessary and appropriate.

Safeguarding animal health and protect welfare.

Supporting trade and prevent disease – it’s not possible to raise livestock or keep pets without them.

People depend on animals for food, companionship, assistance and leisure. They rely on the UK animal medicines industry to help keep animals healthy and protect their welfare.

Our medicines treat and prevent disease – it’s not possible to raise livestock or keep pets without them.

The UK animal medicines industry is an innovative, skills-based sector

As we leave the EU, our priority is that the EU Exit is achieved in a manner that is vital for the UK economy and society that envisages animal medicines (currently in the EU market) to enter the food chain – essentially going to waste. This would be at risk to people, animals and the environment.

NOAH is committed to limiting the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by promoting responsible use and stewardship of antibiotics, to help preserve them for future generations. NOAH actively supports a ‘One Health’ approach and provides scientific and technical expertise in collaboration with our colleagues in the veterinary and human medical sectors. We all aim to ensure that antibiotics are used appropriately.

Our vision is an environment that delivers a thriving animal medicines sector:

- Supporting trade and innovation.
- Safeguarding animal health and welfare and public health and food safety.
- Ensuring that UK veterinarians and animal keepers continue to have access to a wide range of appropriate veterinary medicines.
- Businesses have access to adequate staff – the right workforce for the right jobs.
- Product research and development is incentivised within a regulatory system which continues to be one of the most efficient in the world – making the UK the first-choice world leader in this important science.
- Companies are encouraged to do business in the UK, under unnecessary regulatory burdens.
- Transitional arrangements to support business continuity post EU Exit are built, utilising established technical expertise and infrastructure where necessary and appropriate.

The industry treats around £500m across Europe in research and development

Creating and improving veterinary medicines to keep animals healthy

The industry supports many others, including:

- 2,000 vets registered as practicing in the UK
- Over 6,000 qualified animal health advisers (SQPs)
- Over 11,000 veterinary nurses

All these animals have a right to have access to the correct medicines to treat disease and keep them healthy to support good welfare.

1. We would be at greater risk from pests and diseases such as salmonella, rabies and worms.
2. Pets and farm animals would suffer from welfare problems.
3. More livestock would become sick and would not be permitted to enter the food chain – essentially going to waste.
4. Food would become more expensive – British farming would be put under further strain and we would be even more reliant on imports.
Animals are good for us – be good to them

Pets save the NHS £2.45bn every year

- Pets help reduce blood pressure and increase activity rates – just stroking pets or watching fish swim in an aquarium leads to reduced blood pressure and lower anxiety. Pet owners have been found to visit their doctor 15% less often than non-pet owners.

- Pets increase social engagement – in care homes pets ameliorate loneliness, dogs in social settings encourage interactions, and aquariums have been found to improve dementia units.

- Children with pets at home are healthier – living with a cat or dog during early years leads to a measurable strengthening of the immune system and fewer allergies linked to asthma.

- Children from pet owning households attend school an extra nine days a year on average.

- Nine out of ten (90%) nurses believe animals can improve the health of patients with depression and other mental health problems.

People care about the welfare of animals on farms, but there is widespread misunderstanding about how animal medicines are used.

Did you know?

- Growth hormones have been banned in the UK since 1988 – despite this, 83% of people either believe that, or are not sure whether, growth hormones are still used to make animals grow faster.

- Vaccines are used in livestock farming to stimulate the animal’s immune system so that it can naturally fight off disease – leaving no trace in meat, but 81% of people are unsure whether vaccines can harm us by getting into our food.

- Farmers have implemented alternate measures to reduce the use of antibiotics in farm animals – yet 55% people are unaware of this.

- Animals in all farming systems, including organic and free range, occasionally become sick and need to be treated – it is a myth that animal medicines are only used in intensive farming.

Find out more on the NOAH website:
www.noah.co.uk
What we need from government to safeguard the health and welfare of the UK’s pets and farm animals

1. Make sure that the important role of animal medicines is recognised, and our sector’s needs are included, in our negotiations on the UK’s Exit from the EU.

We need a thriving UK animal medicines sector post-Brexit. The UK is in a strong position to be a global centre of excellence for animal medicines, supporting both innovative product developments and a regulatory model to benefit our local and international trade. It is vital for the UK economy and society that the EU Exit is achieved in a manner that will allow the opportunities it presents to come to fruition.

2. Support incentives to develop innovative treatments and better diagnostics for animals. Ensure prescribers, farmers and pet owners retain access to a full range of animal medicines, to support excellent animal health and treat disease.

We need to protect our antibiotics and reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance. However, veterinary surgeons require access to a range of medicines, including antibiotics, in order to treat the species under their care to support the high welfare standards which our society expects.

AMR is a topic of global importance and is being addressed through the medicinal and veterinary sectors working together in a ‘One Health’ approach. NOAH is committed to limiting the development of antibiotic resistance by actively promoting responsible use and stewardship of antibiotics and to preserve them for future generations. Improving the availability and usage of vaccines can reduce the need for antibiotics too.

3. Use the information in this document to make sure that any future decisions about animal medicines are based on evidence and science – not misunderstandings.

Our sector safeguards animal health and welfare – and public health and food safety.

British people trust our vets and farmers, and animal medicines help the production and supply of healthy food from our farms. Prevention of pain, suffering, injury and disease is one of the five welfare needs set out in the legal Duty of Care for our animals. Yet misunderstandings still exist: the role of our sector in helping safeguard a healthy and prosperous UK society should not be undermined by misconceptions.

Pledge your support to assure the future of this vibrant and thriving industry.