

## The Contribution Animal Health Makes to One Health

NOAH (National Office of Animal Health) is the trade association representing the UK animal health industry. NOAH members are committed to supporting animal welfare and promoting a unified approach to the health of people, animals, and the environment, which are deeply interdependent and interconnected.

The animal health industry is dedicated to taking a One Health approach to balance and optimise human, animal and environmental health. This helps secure the health of pets and livestock, supporting food availability whilst protecting human health and the future of our shared environment.

### Maintaining healthy animals in the UK contributes to One Health by:



#### Protecting public health

Every animal should have access to a range of veterinary medicines and solutions which can protect them from pain and suffering, help optimise health and welfare, while also playing a key role in the control and prevention of diseases. Scientists estimate that more than 6 out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be transmitted from animals (zoonotic disease), through contact and consumption. Preventing and treating infectious diseases in animals is therefore crucial to breaking the transmission cycle to people, thus protecting human health.



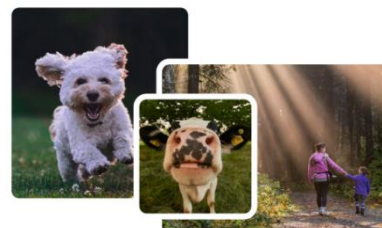
#### Reducing antibiotic resistance

Many of the same classes of antibiotics are used across human, animal, and environmental settings, however, the development of antibiotic resistance threatens the effective prevention and treatment of infections caused by bacteria. The animal health industry's collaborative action across the veterinary and farming sectors has helped the UK become one of the lowest users of antibiotics in livestock in Europe. This helps to reduce the threat of resistance developing further. Measures like disease prevention using vaccines and new technologies have led to significant reductions in usage in livestock, but access to a range of antibiotics remains vital to protect the health of animals on UK farms.



#### Preventing new and emerging diseases

The animal health industry provides essential tools – including vaccines, parasiticides, digital technologies, diagnostics and disease prevention solutions – in the fight against new and emerging diseases that threaten human and animal health. Its innovative contributions must be supported so the industry can continue sustaining a One Health approach.



#### Supporting healthy companion animals for healthier people

Companion animals play an important role in supporting the physical, social, and emotional needs of their owners. By improving the uptake of regular exercise, animals help reduce the overall risk of cardiovascular disease and obesity whilst reducing anxiety, depression and loneliness. They also assist the development of children's emotional and social skills. However, sick companion animals can create stress for their owners and the close proximity of them could risk disease transmission. Keeping them healthy protects and improves the quality of life for both owner and pet.

### Recommendations

To support the animal health industry to continue its positive record, NOAH recommends:

- A robust and future-proofed UK regulatory framework for veterinary medicines, to ensure the availability and accessibility of safe and effective medicines for all animals.
- For all routes of veterinary medicines to market to remain available.
- Providing ongoing training to farmers on disease prevention.
- Ensuring funding for research and development of new medicines and solutions remain a priority in the UK.
- Improving collaboration and partnership between human, animal, and environmental sectors to promote finding One Health solutions to One Health challenges.