

Sample Letter to Veterinary Staff: Clinic Antimicrobial Stewardship Priorities

USE THIS TEMPLATE TO DEVELOP A LETTER FOR YOUR CLINIC

TO: [All Staff, Relief Veterinarians]
FROM: [Veterinary Medical Director and Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee, as appropriate]
RE: [Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Policy and Procedures]
DATE: [Date]

Dear [Veterinary Team Member Name],

This letter is written to inform you of our clinic's commitment to antimicrobial stewardship. Antimicrobials are important tools and are among the most commonly prescribed pharmaceuticals in veterinary medicine. However, research has shown that a high proportion of antibiotic prescriptions are unnecessary or inappropriately prescribed.^{1,2} To improve patient outcomes and reduce pressures leading to antimicrobial resistance, [NAME OF CLINIC] commits to prescribing improvement and staff education on antimicrobial use. Please review [NAME OF CLINIC'S] stewardship commitment statement and protocols developed by the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee (attached). **We ask you to commit to improved antimicrobial use by supporting these current activities:**

[EXAMPLE 1] Prescription record keeping. Drug name, dose, duration, route, frequency, and indication of every antibiotic prescription must be documented in the medical record for every patient, regardless of prior prescriptions or documentation elsewhere (e.g., in medical record of a referring clinic).

[EXAMPLE 2] Use prescribing guidelines developed by the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases (ISCAID) to guide the need for antimicrobials and empiric drug selection. Our clinic will use ISCAID guidelines^{3,4,5} to guide diagnosis and treatment of canine and feline urinary tract disease and respiratory tract infection and canine superficial pyoderma. [AS APPROPRIATE] Records will be reviewed monthly to assess compliance with these requirements. Each provider will receive an individual feedback report, and clinic-wide results will be discussed at monthly quality meetings.

To support your stewardship practice, we have also included [AS APPROPRIATE] a facility antibiogram, guidance for use of antibiograms, and talking points to engage clients on the topic of antimicrobial use.

Sincerely,

[VETERINARY MEDICAL DIRECTOR] [OTHER AS LEADER IF APPROPRIATE]

¹ Burke S, Black V, Sanchez-Vizcaino F, et al. Use of cefovecin in a UK population of cats attending first-opinion practices as recorded in electronic health records. J Feline Med Surg 2016;Aug 9. pii: 1098612X16656706.

² Wayne A, McCarthy R, Lindenmayer J. Therapeutic antibiotic use patterns in dogs: observations from a veterinary teaching hospital. J Small Anim Pract 2011;52(6):310-8.

³ Weese SJ, Blondeau J, Boothe D, et al. International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases (ISCAID) guidelines for the diagnosis and management of bacterial urinary tract infections in dogs and cats. Vet J 2019;247: 8-25.

⁴ Lappin MR, Blondeau J, Boothe D, et al. Antimicrobial use Guidelines for Treatment of Respiratory Tract Disease in Dogs and Cats: Antimicrobial Guidelines Working Group of the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases. J Vet Intern Med 2017; 31 (2): 279-294.

⁵ Hillier A, Llyod Dh, Weese JS, et al. Guidelines for the diagnosis and antimicrobial therapy of canine superficial bacterial folliculitis (Antimicrobial Guidelines Working Group of the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases). Vet Dermatol 2014; 25(3):163-75.