

Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship Roles and Responsibilities

Use these examples to define staff roles for your clinic antimicrobial stewardship (AS) program.

Individual Staff Roles

Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee (ASC)

- Define goals and priorities of AS program.
- Draft and maintain AS protocols and policy.
- Meet regularly as the ASC and with staff.
- Identify and schedule staff AS education.
- Define staff AS roles/responsibilities, include in job description and performance review.
- Make a commitment to staff and clients.

Veterinarian AS Champion

- With the ASC, identify priorities, define prescribing protocols and AS interventions.
- Serve as point of contact for staff on AS.
- Provide feedback to staff on compliance with prescribing protocols, AS interventions.
- Display AS commitment to staff and clients.

Veterinary Technician Supervisor

- Participate in the ASC.
- Review AS priorities, protocols, actions in new-staff training and annual training.
- Encourage AS actions during daily practice.
- Share successes and challenges with ASC.

Practice Manager

- Participate in the ASC.
- Develop AS policy and protocol document.
- Allow staff adequate time for AS (e.g., client communication, review of practices).
- Develop practical, clinic-specific ways to support and celebrate AS actions.

All Staff Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians, and Veterinary Assistants

- Understand clinic AS policy and protocols.
- Implement protocols in daily practice, as pertains to clinical role.
- Stay up-to-date on professional guidelines.
- Communicate with clients about both the importance of antibiotics and their potential harm if used when not needed.
- Bring positive feedback, concerns, and new knowledge to AS Champion's attention.

Client Support Staff

- Be familiar with the clinic AS policy.
- Have educational materials on AS and medication disposal available for clients.
- Work with other organizations (e.g., state veterinary associations, AVMA, CDC) on promotion of responsible antimicrobial use.

Environmental Cleaning Staff

- Recognize importance of environmental cleaning and disinfection to prevention of healthcare-associated infections.
- Understand the importance of patient cohorting and isolation practices and the role of environmental cleaning staff in these disease containment situations.
- Communicate with veterinary staff any concerns about patient status.

Partners in Antimicrobial Stewardship

Consulting Pharmacist

- Stay up-to-date on antibiotic prescribing guidelines and recommendations.
- With AS Champion, review antibiotic prescriptions for accuracy in drug, dose, and duration.
- Attend ASC meetings and report on clinic antibiotic use practices.

Infectious Diseases Specialist

- Provide consultation for unique cases.
- Provide continuing education on best practices for infectious disease diagnosis and management.

Laboratory Representative

- Provide a clinic-specific antibiogram.
- Alert submitting veterinarian of concerning resistance profiles (e.g., multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria).

Clinic-Wide Responsibilities

- Display public commitment to AS in examination rooms and common areas.
- Promote compliance with AS protocols.
- Dedicate financial and personnel resources to support AS efforts.
- Set strong expectations for infection prevention and control practices.