do's and don'ts
ANTIMICROBIAL THERAPY

Responsible antimicrobial use preserves and optimizes the efficacy of antimicrobials and minimizes the selection for antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, thereby protecting public and animal health.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR JUDICIOUS ANTIMICROBIAL USE

• Consider and rule out nonbacterial causes
• Consider history and signalment when making a diagnosis of bacterial infection
• Consider other therapeutic options
• Investigate and treat underlying nonbacterial diseases
• Identify the likely pathogen and use the most narrow-spectrum agent available
• Utilize culture and susceptibility results
• Refer to published guidelines
• Monitor response to treatment and client compliance to ensure satisfactory outcome
• Perform further investigation before switching or combining antimicrobials if there is perceived treatment failure

For more information: www.avma.org/AntibioticUse
do's and don'ts

ANTIMICROBIAL THERAPY

DERMATOLOGIC DISEASE
- Recommend cytologic evaluation of lesions in all cases of suspect pyoderma
- Microbial culture and susceptibility should be performed in conjunction with other diagnostics to investigate recurrent or refractory pyoderma
- Use topical antimicrobials and medicated shampoos as an alternative to systemic antimicrobials when possible

GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASE
- Avoid use of antimicrobials in healthy pets with diarrhea; provide supportive therapy instead (e.g. diet, fluid therapy)
- Make a diagnosis before prescribing antimicrobials
- Fecal smear cytology is not reliable for diagnosis of enteropathogenic bacterial infections

REPRODUCTIVE DISEASE
- Avoid antimicrobial use in healthy bitches and studs prior to breeding
- Simple juvenile vaginitis in dogs does not require antimicrobial therapy

DERMATOLOGIC DISEASE
- In dogs and cats, use of antimicrobials is generally unnecessary for acute, uncomplicated URT disease
- Recommend diagnostics to identify an underlying cause for chronic respiratory disease (greater than 10 days duration)

RESPIRATORY DISEASE
- Urinary Tract Disease
  - Avoid diagnosis of infection based on free-catch urine samples
  - Confirm infection with quantitative cultures

URINARY TRACT DISEASE
- Antimicrobials are not a substitute for appropriate dental management

DENTAL DISEASE
- Avoid antimicrobial use for routine dental procedures in healthy patients
- If indicated (e.g. tooth root abscess), choose antimicrobials likely to be effective against known oral pathogens
- Avoid antimicrobial use for routine dental procedures in healthy patients

GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASE
- Avoid use of antimicrobials in healthy pets with diarrhea; provide supportive therapy instead (e.g. diet, fluid therapy)
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PERI-OPERATIVE USE
- Adhere to best practices for infection control in the operating room
- Avoid prophylactic antimicrobials for routine surgeries
- If prophylactic antimicrobials are used, administer them before surgery and do not administer them beyond the perioperative period

VECTORS-BORNE DISEASE
- Recommend preventive treatments for ectoparasite control to prevent infection and spread of vector-borne pathogens
- Avoid antimicrobial therapy in healthy animals that are seropositive for vector-borne pathogens; seropositivity does not imply active infection