



## POSITION STATEMENT

# POLICY STATEMENT CONCERNING AMINOGLYCOSIDE USE IN SMALL RUMINANTS

Aminoglycosides are a class of antimicrobials effective against aerobic gram-negative organisms and some aerobic gram-positive organisms (e.g. *Staphylococcus aureus*, some mycobacteria, some mycoplasma strains, and some spirochetes).<sup>1</sup> Aminoglycosides include, but are not limited to, amikacin, apramycin, dihydrostreptomycin, gentamicin, neomycin, spectinomycin, and streptomycin. Under AMDUCA, veterinarians may legally use aminoglycosides in cattle, but as with any extralabel drug use, food safety must be ensured, and a violative food residue or any residue that may present a risk to public health is not permitted. Gentamicin is not approved for use in cattle, and there is no established tolerance for residues in the edible tissues of cattle. Organized veterinary medicine has, however, called on veterinarians to avoid the extralabel use of aminoglycosides in cattle because of the propensity for drugs of this class to be retained in kidney tissue for long periods.<sup>2</sup>

The AVMA does not support extralabel use of aminoglycosides in cattle or small ruminants due to the substantial risk for violative residues in food products associated with the prolonged elimination of aminoglycosides.<sup>3</sup> Because of the prolonged withdrawal time of aminoglycosides, the American Veterinary Medical Association approved the following resolution in 1998: That until further scientific information becomes available, aminoglycosides should not be used in cattle, except as specifically approved by the FDA.<sup>4</sup> For the same reason, the AASRP passed a resolution during its 2000 Annual Meeting stating that, "Veterinarians should not use or prescribe extralabel aminoglycosides in small ruminants." It is important to mention that there are on-label uses for neomycin in ruminants that may be considered within a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship.<sup>5, 6, 7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [cdn.ymaws.com/www.aavpt.org/resource/resmgr/imported/aminoglycosides.pdf](http://cdn.ymaws.com/www.aavpt.org/resource/resmgr/imported/aminoglycosides.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [avma.org/javma-news/2001-08-15/fda-warns-against-aminoglycoside-residue-cattle](http://avma.org/javma-news/2001-08-15/fda-warns-against-aminoglycoside-residue-cattle)

<sup>3</sup> [avma.org/policies/aminoglycoside-use-cattle-and-small-ruminants](http://avma.org/policies/aminoglycoside-use-cattle-and-small-ruminants)

<sup>4</sup> [farad.org/publications/digests/072005AminoglycosideResidues.pdf](http://farad.org/publications/digests/072005AminoglycosideResidues.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [valleyvet.com/ct\\_detail.html?pgguid=c0a3bf93-d3e8-4a9c-b143-e78c0a42debe&sfb=1&itemguid=793e7204-b398-4866-9164-f70526f2936c&utm\\_content=1332RX&ccd=IFF003&CATARGETID=120295250000679893&CADevice=c&gclid=EAlalQobChMI6trn\\_J3Q6AIVsRx9Ch0LeweSEAQYASABEgKn\\_PD\\_BwE](http://valleyvet.com/ct_detail.html?pgguid=c0a3bf93-d3e8-4a9c-b143-e78c0a42debe&sfb=1&itemguid=793e7204-b398-4866-9164-f70526f2936c&utm_content=1332RX&ccd=IFF003&CATARGETID=120295250000679893&CADevice=c&gclid=EAlalQobChMI6trn_J3Q6AIVsRx9Ch0LeweSEAQYASABEgKn_PD_BwE)

<sup>6</sup> [federalregister.gov/documents/2006/09/28/E6-15889/oral-dosage-form-new-animal-drugs-neomycin](http://federalregister.gov/documents/2006/09/28/E6-15889/oral-dosage-form-new-animal-drugs-neomycin)

<sup>7</sup> [farad.org/vetgram/goats.asp](http://farad.org/vetgram/goats.asp)

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