

## Animal Health Industry supports the FDA's proposals on responsible use of antibiotics in food-producing animals

**Brussels, Belgium, 12 December 2013** –The International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) is supportive of the US's Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) announcement this week of its plan to ensure the responsible use of antibiotics in food-producing animals. Antibiotics are a vital tool in any veterinarian's toolbox, and are to be used responsibly whenever they are employed.

The FDA's plan establishes a three year timeframe to phase out growth promotion use of medically important antibiotics, and phases in veterinary oversight of these medically important antibiotics for therapeutic and targeted use.

"The responsible use of antibiotics, including the principle 'as much as necessary, as little as possible', and under the supervision of a veterinarian, needs to be further encouraged", says IFAH's acting Executive Director, Mike McGowan. "Animal health is inextricably linked to human health, nutrition and well-being, so ensuring that animals get the therapy they need, when they need it, is vital for all concerned", he added.

For further information, please contact the Animal Health Institute (AHI) on <http://www.ahi.org/about/contact-us/>

### Notes for editors

#### IFAH

The International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) is an organisation representing manufacturers of veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in both developed and developing countries across five continents. The mission of IFAH is to foster a greater understanding of animal health matters and promote a predictable, science-based regulatory environment that facilitates the supply of innovative and quality animal medicines, vaccines and other animal health products into a competitive market place. These products contribute to a healthy and safe food supply as well as a high standard of health and welfare for animals and people.

For further information on IFAH, please visit [www.ifahsec.org](http://www.ifahsec.org)

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#### IFAH

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