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France’s national society of veterinary technical groups (SNGTV) is a technical veterinary organisation responsible for developing and promoting the expertise of private veterinarians involved in France’s livestock production. Its main task is to provide these practitioners with continuing professional education and technical representation. Through the participation of members in its technical committees, it develops and delivers to veterinarians services, tools and methodologies for livestock interventions.

The proper use of antibiotics has been one of its priorities for a number of years.

Two versions of a guide to good practice in veterinary medicinal products, aimed at veterinary practitioners, have been published over the past ten years. A guide to good practice in antibiotic therapy became available in 2009.

Software for registering the prescriptions of veterinarians and the treatments used by livestock producers has been developed and is currently being disseminated. This software, called VETELEVAGE®, together with modules for assessing the data collected, is used to monitor the consumption of antibiotics.

The SNGTV annual congress in 2010 was devoted to antibiotic therapy and antimicrobial resistance. Fact sheets on antibiotic therapy for cattle were published following the congress. An antibiotic therapy workshop will form part of the 2013 congress.

Several articles and special reports on antibiotics have been published in the peer-reviewed continuing professional education journal, Le Bulletin des GTV.

The society has also developed training sessions for veterinarians on antibiotics, as well as a training module for livestock producers on antibiotic therapy and antimicrobial resistance.

The SNGTV is piloting several measures as part of the national plan for reducing the risk of antimicrobial resistance in veterinary medicine, called écoantibio2017, launched by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2012. In this connection, recommendations on the proper use of antibiotics are being drawn up for each sector and pathology.

Finally, the SNGTV is committed to promoting the rational use of antibiotics in the sector by means of an industry-wide charter for the proper use of medicinal products in rabbit production and an agreement on the use of antibiotics in the pork sector.