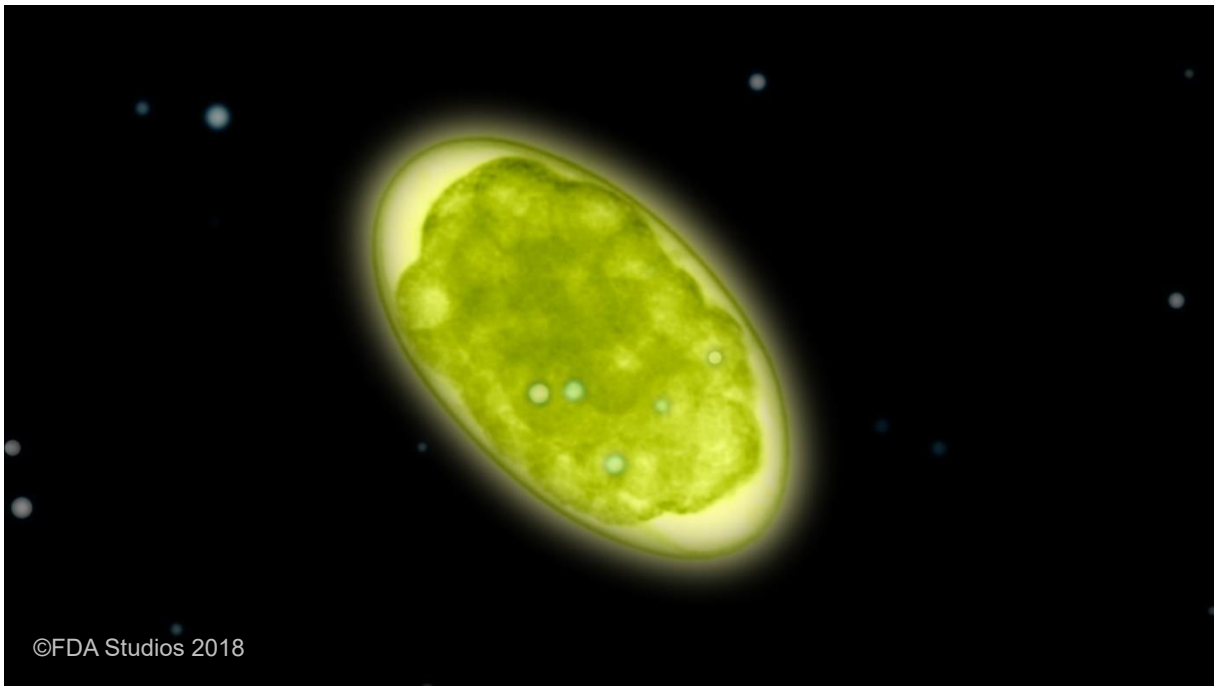
Update from the field concerning antiparasitic resistance

Feedback from the 5th Cycle of the OIE Focal Point training seminars on veterinary products



Antimicrobial resistance is at the forefront of many public and animal health conversations today, but what about antiparasitic resistance? It is time to address this subject, raise awareness, and take actions on both global and local levels to prevent or decrease the speed of the development of this worldwide problem. Antiparasitic resistance poses a significant threat to animal health and can result in production losses in food-producing species. There are currently no OIE guidelines on prudent use of antiparasitic drugs and no standard setting guidelines on antiparasitics.

Brief history

Antiparasitic drugs and the challenges of antiparasitic resistance were first addressed at the 4th Cycle of the Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products, in Entebbe, Uganda, in December, 2015. Strong support from focal point attendees not only prompted the importance of the concept of antiparasitic resistance, but also gave impetus to the OIE to consider publishing standards for antiparasitic veterinary drugs. This premise was echoed by Focal Points during the OIE Regional Seminars for Veterinary Products in Tokyo, Japan, in March 2016 and in Budapest, Hungary, in October of the same year and in November 2017 Beirut (Lebanon).

As a result, the OIE included the subject of **antiparasitics and challenges** into the 5th Cycle training seminar to seek out views in the frame of an interactive panel discussion as part of a session titled,

"

Do we need OIE Standards and Guidelines on prudent and responsible use of antiparasitics?

Is it relevant for Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East?"

All training seminars expressed a deep-rooted desire and interest in working together to tackle the antiparasitic resistance problem (*Swaziland, 5-7 December 2017*; *Cote d'Ivoire, 13-16 January 2018*; *Thailand, 20-22 March 2018; Mexico, 1-3 August 2018*). The latest seminar, which took place for the Region of Americas, from 1-3 August Tecámac (Mexico), concluded that **urgent actions, led by the OIE, should be considered.** The first step could be to write a concept note, and once endorsed, the experts from different Regions should work on a publication on a *Responsible and Prudent Use of Antiparasitics* document which would be subject to endorsements by the OIE Director General and Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD).

Based on the shared experiences from the different training seminars for veterinary Focal Points, experts concluded that proposed strategies to delay or minimize the development of resistance were similar across drug product classes. These strategies include ensuring both accurate diagnosis and animal weights, following proper label instructions for preparation and use of the product, selectively treating only animals that are clinically ill when possible, and strategic use of antiparasitic drugs in an integrated parasite management plan when animals are at high risk for disease (e.g. young animals or high challenge). In some cases, animals with innate resistance to the parasite species may be better suited in those geographic regions where the disease is prevalent (e.g. trypanotolerant breeds of cattle).

Multiple initiatives intended to monitor and address the problem of resistance were also presented. Many attendees referred to the need to develop standards and procedures from the OIE.
During the training seminars for French speaking Africa which were held in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire), Bangkok (Thailand), and Tecámac (Mexico), all Focal Points agreed on the need for guidance on the prudent and responsible use of antiparasitics. The lack of effective drugs and resistance to many antiparasitics, especially for trypanocides, remain challenges to overcome. There are many generic medicines which have been used for decades (e.g. diminazene has been used for more than 50 years) and the quality of veterinary products on the market is poor in some areas, due to counterfeit, falsified and substandard drugs. The other major problems are antiparasitic drug residues in the environment (e.g. ivermectin and toltrazuril) and food residues due to the absence of appropriate withdrawal periods and lack of legislation for appropriate authorisation of medicinal products, as well as knowledge and use of appropriate diagnostics. As part of the recommendations there is a need for more training for veterinarians and farmers and efficient control of the markets.

The OIE, working with its Collaborating Center for Veterinary Medicine-Food and Drug Administration (CVM-FDA), is ready to take the lead in tackling the antiparasitic resistance problem.