Antimicrobial resistance: Global and national developments affecting Australian veterinarians

Dr Mark Schipp

Mark Schipp was appointed Australian Chief Veterinary Officer in 2011. In 2012 he was elected to the OIE Council and in 2018 was elected President of the OIE General Assembly. He is chair of Wildlife Health Australia management committee and member of the Animal Health Committee.

Together with the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Schipp chairs the Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Previously Dr Schipp has held positions responsible for animal derived food product inspection, market access and export certification.

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Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) remains a serious, long-term threat to both human and animal health. Adding weight to this is the recognition that AMR also has major economic consequences. Human and animal health sectors around the globe have directed significant resources towards a unified One Health approach to the management of AMR. Australia has also risen to the challenge, with collaborative actions taken to address AMR at the national level. The Australian animal sector—particularly veterinarians—continues to play an integral role in addressing AMR and in promoting a One Health approach. International policies on AMR are also gathering pace, affecting us in Australia—we need to prepare ourselves well for these. Short to medium-term issues and opportunities on the horizon include a national One Health surveillance system for antimicrobial usage and antimicrobial resistance. We need to work together to address these issues and identify opportunities they present for our companion animals and livestock industries.