

Guidance for Farmers on the Keeping and Retention of Veterinary Medicine Records

Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000
Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2006
Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006

If you are the owner or keeper of food producing animals, or if you treat farm animals which will end up as food intended for human consumption, you must keep a record of the proof of purchase of all veterinary medicinal products acquired for those animals, and a record of any veterinary medicinal product you give them or with which you treat them.

A format for the keeping of these records is set out in the [Annex to this leaflet](#) (pdf 109KB).

Any person required to keep a record must retain that record for a period of five years following the administration or other disposal of the product. Where prescriptions are used as the record, they must be kept for five years, and the actual dates of administration of the treatment must be recorded.

Animals may be sent for slaughter ONLY AFTER the end of the withdrawal period for the veterinary medicinal product which has been administered.

A record shall be maintained of any medicinal treatment given to animals, which are bred or kept for the production of food, wool, skin, or fur, or for other farming purposes.

If a veterinary surgeon administers a veterinary medicinal product to a food producing animal, he/she must either enter the information in the keeper's records or give it to the keeper in writing, in which case the keeper must enter the details required in his records.

Proof of purchase must be retained for at least five years.

Warning

It is an offence:

- to sell or supply an animal for slaughter for human consumption -
 - (i) which contains, or to which there has been administered an unauthorised substance or product;
 - (ii) which contains excess residues of veterinary medicines (above the maximum residue limit);
 - (iii) if the withdrawal period for the product administered to an animal has not expired;
- to use veterinary medicines outside the terms of their licence, unless prescribed by your veterinary surgeon;
- to use hormones or other unlicensed substances for growth promotion purposes;
- to fail to keep the records set out in the [Annex to this leaflet](#) (pdf 109KB).

Withdrawal periods for animal medicines are changing all the time - consult your veterinary surgeon for up-to-date withdrawal periods.

Please note

This leaflet is not an authoritative interpretation of the law, and is intended only for guidance.

For further information, please contact **Environmental Protection, Animal Health Section, Swindon Borough Council, Premier House, Station Road, SN1 1TZ**

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Review Date – 12 June 2007