

**RESOLUTION #3—2021
Regular Winter Session**

Submitted by
Board of Directors

POLICY ON ADVOCATING FOR NECESSARY VETERINARY MEDICAL THERAPY

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates approve the new policy on Advocating for Necessary Veterinary Medical Therapy as noted below:

The AVMA supports animal care policies that allow for judicious use of safe and effective antimicrobial therapies or other medications by veterinarians in the context of a Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR). Good animal welfare requires proper veterinary care which includes necessary medical therapy. Veterinarians should uphold the health and wellbeing of their patients as their primary responsibility over animal care policies, production practices, marketing programs or any other competing interests that otherwise would direct the withholding of necessary medical therapy for relief from pain and disease. Veterinarians in consultation with their clients should advocate for animal production programs that provide alternative plans for animals that receive a medication prohibited by any specific marketing program.

Statement about the Resolution

This policy is intended to address concerns particularly regarding the withholding of antimicrobials, but also other medications, in the face of illness, primarily due to food animal production marketing programs that restrict use. However, this policy applies to all species where antimicrobials, or other medications, are withheld. Members of the Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents (COBTA) have obtained input from the Committee on Antimicrobials (CoA), Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee (AALC), Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), and Clinical Practitioners Advisory Committee (CPAC) in developing this proposed policy. Members of COBTA believe that this policy language needs to stand on its own and not be part of a larger or different policy because some food animal veterinarians, in particular, need clear and direct language from AVMA that supports their efforts in advocating for the judicious use of antimicrobials and other medications.

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #7	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X			
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				

(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)