

RESOLUTION 6—2020
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by Board of Directors

REVISED POLICY ON ANTIPARASITIC RESISTANCE

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates (HOD) adopt the revised policy on Antiparasitic Resistance as noted below (additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struckthrough~~).

Antiparasitic Resistance

Scientific experts have identified changes in parasitic infections (relating to parasite genetics, biology, and robustness as well as management of these parasites) and increased parasiticide susceptibility resistance that are of immediate and emerging concerns in many species. These changes are affecting the health and productivity of animals, requiring veterinarians and animal owners to reexamine strategies, programs, and drug choices for parasite evaluation and control. The AVMA strongly recommends that veterinarians in concert with ~~animal owners~~ clients utilize the most up-to-date guidelines, treatments, and evidence-based medicine for parasite control. Animal owners Veterinarians should lead the decision-making process for the judicious use of antiparasitic drugs in animals regardless of the distribution channels through which the antiparasitic drugs were obtained. ~~should always consult their veterinarian about parasite control.~~ Examples of parasites that have evidence of resistance to certain parasiticides include *Dirofilaria immitis* (heartworm) in dogs; *Haemonchus contortus* (barber pole worm), *Teladorsagia circumcincta* (stomach worm), and *Trichostrongylus colubriformis* (black scour worm) in small ruminants; *Cooperia spp.* (intestinal worm) in cattle; and *Cyathostomin spp.* (small strongyle) and *Parascaris equorum* (roundworm) in horses.

~~These changes are affecting the health and productivity of animals, requiring veterinarians and animal owners to reexamine strategies, programs, and drug choices for parasite evaluation and control.~~ The geographical extent of parasite species with documented parasiticide resistance varies greatly and treatment strategies should be guided by local conditions, ~~and experience~~ and antiparasitic drug sensitivity studies when possible. Diagnosis of the presence of parasiticide resistance is still challenging. ~~Primary and continuing educational~~ Education and research efforts in the field of parasitology are needed to provide the most up-to-date knowledge to veterinarians, veterinary students, and animal owners; this knowledge should include parasite life cycles, diagnostic evaluations, management strategies, and treatment and control measures. In developing a parasite control program, veterinarians can obtain specific information from multiple sources including, but not limited to, species and specialty groups, government agencies, and other experts.

Statement about the Resolution

This policy was reviewed by the Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents (COBTA) in accord with the every-five-year review directive. This policy was made available for comment by AVMA members - none were received.

The revisions reflect the need to:

- Delete the list of parasites known to have developed resistance to common parasiticides as the list is not exhaustive.
- Recommend that veterinarians lead the decision-making process regarding utilization of parasiticides.
- Recommend that antiparasitic drug sensitivity studies be considered in decision making.

Financial Impact: None.

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X	X		
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				
(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)				