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NEWS RELEASE

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Canadian Veterinarians Work to Harmonize Oversight of Antimicrobial Use to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance

Ottawa, ON – The Canadian veterinary profession has taken a significant step forward with the creation of a national framework to address its responsibilities under new Federal Government regulations for increased veterinary oversight of antimicrobials, which are expected to be implemented by the end of 2017.

The Framework, “*Veterinary Oversight of Antimicrobial Use – A Pan-Canadian Framework for Professional Standards for Veterinarians*,” was developed by the Veterinary Pharmaceutical Stewardship Advisory Group of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) in collaboration with the Canadian Council of Veterinary Registrars (CCVR).

It provides a template of professional standards, which may be used by provincial and territorial veterinary regulatory (licensing) bodies when developing their own regulations, guidelines, or bylaws relating to veterinarians’ professional responsibilities in providing oversight of veterinary antimicrobial use.

“Canadian veterinarians have a national and international responsibility to protect public health by contributing to the fight against antimicrobial resistance,” says Dr. Troy Bourque, CVMA President. “By working towards harmonizing veterinary oversight of antimicrobial use in Canada, we are optimizing our stewardship practices in animal and public health, maintaining access to and effectiveness of antimicrobials for the treatment and prevention of disease in animals and upholding to the integrity of the veterinary profession.”

The Framework describes the professional obligations for veterinarians as ‘*suggested standards*,’ provides a definition of the *Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR)*, and describes the professional obligations to be met by veterinarians when prescribing an antimicrobial drug.

In addition, the Framework makes several recommendations on outstanding issues, including surveillance of antimicrobial use and distribution, and continuing education opportunities for veterinary professionals on antimicrobial stewardship.

The veterinary profession in Canada will continue to be engaged in discussions on the oversight of the use of veterinary antimicrobials at provincial and national levels.

The Framework was developed after consultation with key stakeholders from the veterinary and human health communities, producer groups, and regulators from across Canada.

The framework document has been completed and distributed to all regulatory bodies and CVMA members. It is available for download from the CVMA website at canadianveterinarians.net/documents/pan-canadian-framework

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The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national and international voice for Canada's veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. Visit canadianveterinarians.net to learn more about CVMA.

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