



CANADIAN VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES MÉDECINS VÉTÉRINAIRES

QUESTIONS TO THE FEDERAL POLITICAL PARTIES

1. Animal cruelty legislation in Canada.

Context: In Canada, the Criminal Code of Canada controls human behaviour in relation to animal suffering. It defines the limitations and sets out the penalties if there are breaches. Canada treats animals as property. Property rights include the rights of possession, the rights of use, and the enjoyment of property to the exclusion of humans. The Criminal Code of Canada under Part XI sets out the Wilful and Forbidden Acts in Respect of Certain Property.

If elected, will your party update the federal animal cruelty law?

Does your party believe that the present Criminal Code of Canada goes far enough to ensure the protection of animals?

2. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), own use importation (OUI) of veterinary drugs (especially antibiotics) and active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) loopholes.

Context: The regulation of the sale of veterinary drugs in Canada is the mandate of Health Canada through the *Food and Drugs Act*. Each province in Canada regulates the use of veterinary drugs once they are approved at the federal level through their own provincial legislation. This federal/provincial regulatory divide has historically not allowed the coordination of the sale and use of veterinary drugs in Canada.

For many years, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) has been advocating to close veterinary drug importation ‘loopholes’ to allow Canada to have complete regulatory control of such products. This is of particular importance for antimicrobial products, as there are growing concerns surrounding antimicrobial resistance that are related to irresponsible use. The CVMA Importation of Veterinary Products position statement addresses the abuse of Health Canada’s personal importation (“own use importation- OUI”) provision. The CVMA Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) position statement expresses concerns with the direct use of such products in animals.

The lack of regulatory control of OUI products and APIs represents a risk to animal health (e.g. improper dosing), public health (e.g. antimicrobial resistance), as well as risks to food safety and international trade (e.g. drug residue, export bans).

If elected, during the next parliamentary session, what measures will your party undertake to mitigate antimicrobial resistance?

If elected, will your party follow the recommendations of the Auditor General of Canada to close the loopholes of own use importation and importation of active pharmaceutical ingredients?

3. Antimicrobial use in Canada.

Context: The CVMA strongly supports the responsible use of antimicrobials by the veterinary profession to protect both animal and human health and welfare.

Veterinarians are best positioned to assess the benefits and risks of antimicrobial use in animals, and must explain to their clients the importance of judicious use of antimicrobials. To conserve the efficacy of antimicrobial drugs, veterinarians must strive to achieve a balance between maximizing animal health and welfare and minimizing bacterial resistance

If elected, during the next parliamentary session, will your party implement the Federal action plan on antimicrobial resistance and use?

What is your party's position concerning antimicrobial use, not only in veterinary medicine and agriculture, but also in human medicine?

What is your party's position on veterinary oversight on the use of antibiotics in animals?

4. Embryonic stem cell research and research funding for animal and human disease.

Context: Stem cell research holds potential to treat human disease and prevent suffering. Stem cells have the potential to provide treatments for a host of debilitating diseases including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, heart disease, and spinal cord injury.

If elected, what is your party planning to do concerning research and the research funding of embryonic stem cell for animal and human diseases?

5. Transportation of farm animals.

Context: Adherence to the National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice that specify requirements outlining acceptable and unacceptable practices are fundamental elements for the care and handling of animals. Everyone involved in the transportation of animals in Canada has a responsibility for ensuring that the transportation process does not cause injury or suffering to the animals. CVMA supports a revision of the 2001 farm animal transportation Code of Practice.

CVMA has been advocating for the federal government to amend Canada's transportation of animals regulations for almost two decades. CVMA has urged the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (link: <http://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/letter-to-agriculture-minister-2011>) to move the proposed regulatory amendment more

expeditiously through the parliamentary process.

If your party is elected, during the next parliamentary session, what will you do to mitigate the sufferance of animals during their transportation? Is your party planning to amend Canada's transportation of animals regulations?

6. CgFARAD funding.

Context: Livestock production in Canada depends on drugs and other chemicals to protect the health of animals. Food animals may, on occasion, be exposed to environmental contaminants or become the object of bioterrorism. To proactively reduce residues risks, veterinarians need to provide producers with accurate information on the disposition of drugs or chemicals in animals prior to slaughter.

Canada has joined a global food animal residue avoidance databank program known as gFARAD. Based at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario, the Canadian gFARAD provides information on residue avoidance.

The funding of this very important service is constantly in jeopardy and compromises its existence.

If your party is elected, what will your party do concerning the funding and existence of CgFARAD?