

## **Extract from: “ NOAH response to O’Neill Report on Antimicrobials in Agriculture”**

“NOAH (National Office of Animal Health) has welcomed the global approach in the Antimicrobials in Agriculture and the Environment document produced by the independent O’Neill Review on Antimicrobial Resistance .....

Catherine Sayer, Chair of NOAH, said: “Farmers and veterinary surgeons in the UK, supported by the animal medicines sector, use antibiotics responsibly – as little as possible, but as often as necessary. ....

### **Treating animals when needed is a legal responsibility.**

European and national animal welfare legislation requires farmers to ensure their livestock receive appropriate treatment without delay, and the veterinary surgeons who prescribe antibiotics are committed to making animal health and welfare their first concern, while prescribing responsibly. NOAH would oppose any proposals encouraging farmers not to treat sick animals, because of the negative animal welfare outcomes that would arise.....

Healthy, well-cared for animals mean healthy food. It remains a fact that like humans, animals will fall ill from bacterial infections on occasion.

In these cases **antibiotics are essential for their health and welfare.**

In the UK, as well as the rest of the world, there are many more animals than there are people, which goes some way towards explaining why the use of antibiotics in animals, when measured in simple tonnage figures, is similar to that in people,” Catherine Sayer explains. “Also, it must be remembered that a 600 kg cow will require a greater volume of antibiotic to treat an infection than an 80 kg man. A recent ‘One Health’ report published by Public Health England and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate identified that the total human use of antibiotics in the UK was 2.4 times that of veterinary use, when measured on biomass or the comparative weights of the human and animal populations.”