



POSITION STATEMENT

AMINOGLYCOSIDE USE IN SMALL RUMINANTS

Aminoglycosides are a class of antimicrobials effective against aerobic gram-negative organisms and some aerobic gram-positive organisms (e.g. *Staphylococcus aureus*, some mycobacteria, some mycoplasma strains, and some spirochetes).¹ Aminoglycosides include, but are not limited to, amikacin, apramycin, dihydrostreptomycin, gentamicin, neomycin, spectinomycin, and streptomycin. Under AMDUCA, veterinarians may legally use aminoglycosides in cattle, but as with any extralabel drug use, food safety must be ensured, and a violative food residue or any residue that may present a risk to public health is not permitted. Gentamicin is not approved for use in cattle, and there is no established tolerance for residues in the edible tissues of cattle. Organized veterinary medicine has, however, called on veterinarians to avoid the extralabel use of aminoglycosides in cattle because of the propensity for drugs of this class to be retained in kidney tissue for long periods.²

The AVMA does not support extralabel use of aminoglycosides in cattle or small ruminants due to the substantial risk for violative residues in food products associated with the prolonged elimination of aminoglycosides.³

¹ cdn.ymaws.com/www.aavpt.org/resource/resmgr/imported/aminoglycosides.pdf

² avma.org/javma-news/2001-08-15/fda-warns-against-aminoglycoside-residue-cattle

³ avma.org/policies/aminoglycoside-use-cattle-and-small-ruminants

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