

Scenario #1 Sample Answer Excerpts:

The stance taken by the AVMA, among many other organizations, in my opinion, speaks for the vast majority of veterinarians. That is, that although minimal risk to humans exists, antimicrobials play a key role in maintaining health and preventing and treatment in food animals that ultimately end up on dinner plates across America.

In short, the key to avoiding antimicrobials in the food supply comes down to responsible use.

The veterinarian and producer must maintain a positive veterinarian-patient-client relationship, cooperating together to document the use and administration of antimicrobials, to ensure all withholding periods are met to ensure an antimicrobial free food supply.

Antimicrobials are important for the treatment of disease and creates the assurance of a safe food supply.

Another important factor in antimicrobial use is creating a good veterinarian-owner relationship. Veterinarians should oversee all microbial use and should only be administered by a veterinarian. This helps make sure that a producer/owner is not misdiagnosing an illness and also helps make sure that all withdrawal times for production animals are understood. This is also important so that an owner understands the purpose of the antimicrobial and why it is being administered.

The final important factor in antimicrobial use is the education of owners and producers on proper animal husbandry techniques and preventative care should be emphasized.

Scenario #2 Sample Answer:

Dear pet owner,

As your pet's wellness check approaches, it is important to consider your pet's weight. The American obesity "epidemic" is beginning to engulf not only humans, but pets as well. As with humans, the risks of obesity in pets are numerous. Pets that are overweight or obese have an increased risk for heart disease, chronic artery disease, diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), arthritis, respiratory dysfunctions and chronic fatigue.

Some causes of obesity include excess caloric intake of the wrong foods, inappropriate feeding practices and guidelines, free feeding, reduced activity, genetics and spaying or neutering. Though the pet is "responsible" for eating the food, pet obesity is an issue caused by humans, not the pet itself. As pet owners, we are responsible for what food our animal eats and how much attention (including exercise time) they are given. However, it is important to realize that a pet's seemingly ceaseless appetite is generally not an issue, it is simply their instinct. Pets need to be fed what they are designed to eat, a healthy and wholesome diet, in appropriate amounts, both of which are the owner's responsibility. The type and amount of food you feed your pet is central to your pet's overall health, fitness and longevity.

So what can you do to keep your pet in shape? Select a healthy food brand with ingredients that are as minimally processed as possible, and try to give your pet at least a half hour, preferably more, of activity time. If your pet has been neutered or spayed, their hormonal changes may reduce activity energy and increase appetite, so keep an eye on their food intake. Reduce treats and scraps, and instead feed them a small piece of fruit or vegetable as a reward. If you have further questions, contact your veterinarian.

Sincerely,
Dr. Student, DVM