

A Fish Out of Water

Antibiotic Use for Non-Human Indications or Uses

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What harm can happen when antibiotics are used for non-human indications or uses? Read below to learn how antibiotics are used outside of human medicine and why we should care.



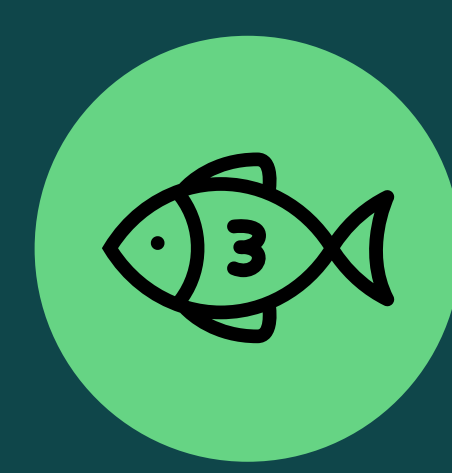
Animal Growth

- **66% of all US antibiotics** are given to animals to promote growth
- Drug resistance develops because of use of non-standard, low doses used in animals
- Animal waste used as fertilizer may contain antibiotics and bacteria which can contaminate exposed produce



Veterinary Use

- Used commonly to prevent or treat pet infections
- **Animal overprescribing** occurs due to limited evidence/ testing & owner satisfaction
- Similar antibiotics are used in pets AND humans, which leads to **drug resistance in both populations**



Aquaculture

- Farming of fish and other marine life
- Antibiotics used to treat/prevent fish infections
- Leads to **antibiotic build up** in fish, sediments, and water
- Causes **toxic effects** in water animals and humans



Water Supply Pollution

- Reach water supply via human/animal waste or drug company disposal
- Resistance develops in **bacterial biofilms** in water systems
- **Spread of bacteria** through animal/human consumption



Stewie Says:

Non-human use of antibiotics also contributes to **antibiotic resistance in humans**, which makes **treating infections more challenging!**

How can I help?

- Only prescribe antibiotics for bacterial infections, use the shortest duration recommended
- Practice good hand hygiene!
- Wash hands before/after cooking, ensure food is cooked & stored appropriately. Click [here](#) for more
- Talk to your vet about resistance and appropriate use of antibiotics in pets. Click [here](#) for more
- Appropriately dispose of antibiotics. Click [here](#) for more



Click [here](#) or use the QR code to take a short quiz!



Guest author, Dr. Diana Delgado, is a pediatrician and 1st year infectious diseases fellow at CM. Since moving to KC, she enjoys looking for Spanish food restaurants and places to kayak.