

ANTIBIOTICS

"Poultry flocks affected by primary or opportunistic bacterial infections need proper medication, not only to avoid economic loss but also to satisfy animal welfare and alleviate suffering and discomfort." R Froyman, Poultry Diseases.

With increased awareness by the consumer and food retailer of the problems of resistance to certain antibiotics and overuse in both the human and animal fields, it behoves us all to be responsible in the choice and use of antibiotics in the future.

In modern poultry farm systems, flock medication can be administered either via the feed or water. Diseased birds are more likely to drink than eat; therefore, in-water medication is probably the desired route in the face of an infection.

Adequate medication is dependent on appreciation of the dose and duration of the treatment. Quantities of antibiotics to be used are calculated either using birds' water consumption or total weight of the flock. It is thus useful to keep records of the water consumed by your birds and a regular check on weights to allow easy calculation. Failing that we can always refer to target charts at the Practice. Remember that water consumption can vary with different weather conditions.

Further Consideration

All antibiotics (whatever their route of entry) must be logged in a medicines book. If you do not have an existing book the Minster Practice can supply you with one.

Protocols of medication for specific problems have not been suggested but the latest treatment advice is always available from the veterinary surgeons.