

Animals are good for us - be good to them

With so many issues vying for prominence, the future health and welfare of Britain's farmed and companion animals may not be at the top of everyone's agenda. But these animals play such a major role in our society. Livestock farming and production of good healthy, British food is of course very important to the rural economy. And companion animals are not just 'pets': they are also assistance animals who help people with long term illness and disabilities lead more fulfilling lives. It has been scientifically proven that animals help people get better and help keep people well. They are good for children's health, emotional development and schooling.

The National Office of Animal Health, the representative body for Britain's animal medicines industry, hopes that those planning this country's future will not miss the opportunity to consider the things happening right now which will impact on animal health and welfare.

NOAH welcomes the publication of DEFRA's implementation plan for the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy in England. We are particularly pleased to see a new initiative on veterinary medicines, showing animal medicines, responsibly used, form part of the backbone of the strategy.

NOAH is also pleased that the partnership approach of the RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture) Alliance has been recognised as a means to bring stakeholders together. This work has already started, and NOAH looks forward to it continuing. We look forward to a similar recognition for AMTRA (Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority).

Members of the Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority (AMTRA) have qualifications, expertise, and daily contact with the farming community. This makes them the ideal source of information on a range of practical issues, including the all important area of biosecurity. Through the register of Suitably Qualified Persons in the agricultural merchant sector, AMTRA is in a strong position to assist in implementing this animal health and welfare strategy.

NOAH, together with the wider animal health industry, is able to provide Government with a huge pool of scientific and technical expertise, much of which is also freely available



to others who use animal medicines. Our hope is that all the political parties will work together to ensure that the plan will be implemented effectively. Then the benefits will extend well beyond the health and welfare of farm animals, and the nation's horses and pets, to help provide healthy food from healthy animals.

DEFRA's stated intention of working with others is being translated from words into action, and we look forward to helping this process continue, to the benefit of the health and welfare of all of the nation's animals.

Formed in 1986, NOAH is a trade association representing the UK animal medicines industry whose aim is to provide safe, effective, quality medicines for the treatment and welfare of all animals. In 2003, NOAH's members accounted for over 90% of the £398 million UK animal health market.

NOAH provides a comprehensive and highly-respected source of advice and information for individuals, organisations and the media. If you would like further information regarding the use of animal medicines, please contact:

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