

MANGEMENT OF DRUGS AND VETERINARY EQUIPMENT ON THE FARM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement.....	4
Table of Contents.....	5
Introduction.....	6
The Use of Vet. Drugs and Equipment on the Farm.....	7
Advantages of Good Drugs and Equipment on the Farm.....	7
Precautions on Use of Veterinary Drugs.....	8
The Nigerian Drug Laws.....	8
Handling Veterinary Drugs.....	9
A. Pharmaceutical drugs.....	9
B. Mineral salt licks.....	11
Care of Veterinary Equipments.....	13
Care of Farm Consumables.....	14
Restriction on the Use of Veterinary Drugs.....	15
Planning For First Aid on the Farm.....	16
Bibliography.....	16

INTRODUCTION

Definition of drug under these laws include any substances of vegetable, animal or mineral origin or any preparations or admixtures thereof which is registered for and used for treatment of ailments in either human or animals. Drug preparations could be recommended for either internal or external body conditions.

Drugs, Veterinary consumables and equipments are indispensable aids in the maintenance of hygienic, safe and proper delivery of routine vet care in farm animals. Most of the cases of drug abuse recorded in farm animals in the recent years were attributable to lack of proper knowledge of drug control either by the farmers that use them or the animal health attendants who render dispensing services at the farm.

It is good to know that there are no magic drugs. A fake or drugs handled carelessly will not give good result. A drug that is abused on animals is a waste of resources and infringement on the fundamental right of consumer of your farm produce. The drug needs of your farm may not be different from time to time but require professionals to help you determine the dosage require for every situation that call for their use. It is always good to seek the advice of your local veterinarian.

If health care equipments on the farm and the pattern of drug use are to give many years of useful service to you and your animals, considerable planning has to be made. This bulletin therefore is intended to help the animal health attendant and livestock owner understand what choice of drugs are allowed on the farm to be handled by farmers and how to take care of such drugs and equipments required to achieve the best of first aid treatment.

THE USE OF VET. DRUGS AND EQUIPMENT ON THE FARM

Whatever type of farm you have, your herd health plans requires the use of one form of equipment or the other. Every work you do on the farm also requires that you know how to effectively use your appliances and equipments to achieve the desired result. Some of the routine husbandry practices that require one form of equipment or the other are:

- Vaccination schedules
- Routine control of Parasites
- Routine first aid treatments
- Balanced, adequate and effective feeding
- Sanitation and management of the Farm environment
- Veterinary support services.

ADVANTAGES OF GOOD DRUGS AND EQUIPMENT ON THE FARM

- It enables you to plan and carry out your work on time especially with those drugs and chemicals that are needed for first aid treatments.
- It enable you invest on what is required on the farm on a more regular basis.
- A well-planned farm with an organized first aid helps your veterinarian in his routine works.
- It helps veterinarians to create awareness on how to maintain veterinary consumables and equipment after every use.

PRECAUTIONS ON USE OF VETERINARY DRUGS

- 1.** Most Veterinary pharmaceuticals like human medicine are prescription only medicines (POM). They are to be used only on Doctors advice. The Nigerian law requires you to consult with your local Veterinarian before you buy any drug for animal use. There is always one benefit or the other for doing the right thing all time.
- 2.** Problems that may arise due to indiscriminate use or abuse include drug resistance and residue builds up on food animal products. The adverse effect of which could be transferred to man the final consumer of food animals.
- 3.** If failure occurs after the right use of drug, you are also expected to consult your Veterinary doctor immediately for the necessary advise and supports.
- 4.** Treated animals should not be slaughtered for human consumption within 21 days after treatment. Such meat consumed is at your own risk.
- 5.** Milk from treated animals should not be consumed within 7 days after treatment. You should also note that some manufacturers specify the number of days after which animals treated with their drugs can be slaughtered for human consumption. It is important to take some of this advice seriously.

THE NIGERIAN DRUG LAWS

- 1.** The Nigerian drug laws prohibit fake drugs, either their sale, or their distribution and their purchase. Hawking of such

material is illegal and attracts fine and or terms of imprisonment in the court of law.

2. The Nigerian veterinary laws forbid any person or persons who is not registered from administering drugs to animal or practice Veterinary medicine. People who practice Veterinary medicine Illegally are classified as quacks. A quack once identified is arrested and prosecuted in the court of law unless he can prove it otherwise.
3. The veterinary law also prohibits sales of unregistered veterinary drugs and its distribution. It prohibits counterfeiting of known trade name, adulteration of known drugs. Marketing of fake drugs. Illegal importation and hawking of drug is illegal. Breach of the law attracts a fine, and or imprisonment for five years in the court of law.
4. Legal controls, penalties, sanctions or fine for offenders on wrongful usage of drugs in farm animals are contained in the following decrees:
 - A. They are Pharmacy laws of 1947,
 - B. Food and Drug decree of 1974,
 - C. The NAFDAC decree of 1993,
 - D. Drug and related product decree of 1993
 - E. Counterfeit and fake drug provisional act of 1988.

HANDLING VETERINARY DRUGS

A. Pharmaceutical drugs

1. Drugs transportation

When you buy chemicals or drugs for use on the farm, ensure

that the containers are in an upward position. If the containers are bottles, they should be well arranged in cartons. And should not be stacked. If they are being transported in public van the carton should have a bold inscription “fragile, Handle with care”. It is also good to notify your driver at the onset what you are carrying and your right to carry such medicine in case police officers at the check point may want clarification from the driver.

2. Storage of veterinary drugs

While on the farm, Veterinary drugs must be stored in cool dry place with low relative humidity and a temperature not exceeding 25 degree Celsius. This is very important especially in case of powdery preparations that deteriorate fast in poor storage conditions. Your Vet should handle all drugs that require refrigeration and call for them only when you need them.

Drugs must be stored away from direct sunlight as this may have adverse effects on the color, viscosity, and may even lead to reduced potency or outright damage - **What a waste of resources!**

3. Drug Administration

- a. When handling Veterinary pharmaceutical in a large herd, it is desirable to wear protective clothing such as overall, cap, gloves, boots, etc. Protective wears are necessary to prevent direct drug-body contact.
- b. It is wrong to buy fake or expired rugs. Before you use any drug at all always check for the expiry date, any sign of fake presentation, color and viscosity etc. When in doubt contact

Your local veterinary officer immediately for clarification.

- c. When your doctor administer inject able suspensions on your animals, it is important to confirm the withdrawal time from him. Once a drug is open for use for the first time, use the remaining product within 28 days for optimum effectiveness. Discard and bury the unused material thereafter.
- d. In case accidental spillages occur during use, wash the affected part of your body with water and soap. And apply soothing cream. You should consult your physician when in doubt.
- e. Handle all drugs with care. Keep all drugs in safe with proper label on their containers. All drugs should be out of the reach of children and uninformed personnel. In case a drug is accidentally swallowed, induce vomiting by any of the normal methods and report to your physician immediately.
- f. Injectibles and prescription drugs are to be used by professionals. It is a wrong farm practice to inject animals or administer drug without veterinary advice. Once you start such habits you may find it difficult to stop it. When a drug is wrongly administered, either by overdosing or under dosing harm is done, the effect of this will manifest much later. Don't overlook such mistake. Seek professional advice all times.

B. Mineral salt licks.

Salt licks are forms of drugs that are required on the farm all the time and are subject to abuse as a result of careless handling. Mineral salt licks are basically salts plus other trace elements added together into a

formulated compound and pressed into block. It readily provides animals with minerals salts to maintain their growth, productivity and metabolism. Beside the fact that they are feed kept on the farm for animal use all the time, they are different from the conventional feeds sources, as such should be handled with care. Salt lick is to be licked by the animal free choice and not added to feed. Salt lick blocks once damaged should be thrown away. The dust should not be added to feed.

Characteristics of salt licks

Salt licks easily absorb moisture from the air, especially when there is high humidity. And the block can give way and breakdown with pressure arising from mishandling. Salt lick blocks once broken become a waste and of less use to the animal. The dust should not be reconstituted into feed to avoid problem of salt intoxication.

The best form of Storage for salt licks.

It is desirable to place salt lick on wooden platform to protect it against dampness. It also provides base ventilation for the salt. Always place blocks some distance away from the wall.

Usage

The trace elements in salt licks are very stable when handled as recommended and are released upon being licked by the animal.

How to use salt licks

Salt licks should always be available in animal pens free choice in addition to clean water in the water trough.

CARE OF VETERINARY EQUIPMENTS.

Veterinary equipments includes Infusion sets, de-worming or drenching kits, disposable syringes, Hypodermic needles, Clinical thermometer, Knives for hoof trimming, Blades etc.

1. It is important to know that surgical instruments such as blades, Knives, Indeed all-veterinary equipments can discolor and rust if not maintained in a dry condition. Clean and decontaminate all veterinary equipment as soon as possible after use and return them for safe keeping.
2. Soiled instruments must not be allowed to dry. Soaking in cold water is recommended if cleaning is not to be carried put immediately. Never use abrasives as these will spoil the surface finish and cause discoloration, rusting and pitting.
3. When using powerful antiseptics and disinfectants ensure solution is mixed at correct strength. Equipments should not be left in chemical solutions for long periods and care should be taken to rinse off all traces of chemical after cleaning.
4. Dry all equipment before storage, as any moisture left will promote pitting or rust spots due to the reaction of carbon on the steel. It is also important to lubricate all veterinary equipments periodically to prevent joint stiffness and failures. Use only lubricants recommended by your local veterinary doctor.
5. It is recommended that needle and syringes are used as

new on animals. Where this is not possible, they should be cleaned washed and steamed. Used purified or clean water for the steaming all the time to avoid deposits on the instruments. Never use methylated spirit near a heat source.

CARE OF FARM CONSUMABLES

The farm veterinary consumables include absorbent cotton wool, methylated spirit, Gentian violet, cotton bandage; these consumables are indispensable aids in the hygienic, safe and proper delivery and administration of medicaments. Farmers are expected by necessity to acquire and maintain them on the farm for routine use.

How to handle Farm veterinary consumables

1. Clinical thermometer, gentian violet and infusion sets and methylated spirits should be well arranged inside cartons or wrapper or leather bags and keep in the first aid room. Don't leave chemicals or drugs on the floor. Place them back immediately after each use.
2. Check for abnormalities like torn labels, unwrap role, color change, odors etc. Also check available brands in the market, their expiry dates and when in doubt contact your local veterinarian for advice. This advice is important before you introduce any new product into your first aid treatment collections.
3. Always ensure the seal of the products you are buying have not been tampered with and is intact before use. Tightly recap containers after use and never be in hurry when handling

drugs or chemicals. Maintain aseptic technique during and after use. Disposable needles and syringes must be used only once. Before reuse it must be sterilized. Use sterile materials for all minor operations such as wound dressing. Always sterilize the bulb of thermometer before and after use. And immerse in shallow bottled oil for safe keep.

4. Some veterinary consumables usually come in big containers. You should designate a spot in the first aid room for all consumables. Store them on pallets or rack. Never put loads on them so that you don't break or damage them. There should be cross ventilation where they are kept.
5. Discarded or used materials and containers should be collected in bin bags. Bury them deep in the ground. Drugs and Farm chemical are not environmentally friendly. Handle them with care.

RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF VETERINARY DRUGS

1. Restrictions on the use of Veterinary Vaccines

The definition of Vaccines includes blood extracts such as serum, toxins, anti toxins, antibody and antigens used in Veterinary practice for the purpose of disease prevention and control. All Veterinary vaccines shall be handled, sold or administered only by a registered veterinary surgeon or prescribed officers of the Director or chief veterinary officer of any state.

Expired, damage, obsolete and or fake drugs must not be used at all no matter the temptation. Indeed, they must be discarded. However the disposal process must be environmentally friendly. Veterinary drugs are to be buried six feet under the ground. On no account should you attempt to burn drug.

PLANNING FOR FIRST AID ON THE FARM

First aid is essential part of a good farm. You have to spend time and considerable amount of money to build it up. First aid unit should be well planned in consultation with your local vet officer so that it can be cheap, attractive, convenient and safe to use.

The arrangement of the unit should be given serious attention and enough time in order to achieve the efficiency of a well-planned farm. Extra money set aside for this is not only good investments for some time to come but it also assure a good health of the animals and the people who will consume your product and your own happiness is QUARANTEED.

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