final report

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Revision of Veterinary Drug Manual for Livestock Export

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Abstract

Regular changes to the registration and availability of veterinary drugs, combined with changes to current commercial practices, mean that drug manuals can rapidly become outdated. It is particularly important that information provided to Australia's livestock exporters be as up to date as possible to allow optimum animal welfare and protection of international markets.

The Mackinnon Project was asked to revise the existing Veterinary Drug Manual for Livestock Export. We completed this task using a range of resources, including material provided on the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medical Authority (APVMA) web-site and MIMS IVS Manual (Dec 2007). Where needed, we further consulted representatives of veterinary pharmaceutical companies, for example to determine the availability of older registered products.

While changes to drug registration and availability will continue to change subsequent to this revision, the revised manual was as up to date as possible at the time of submission and will provide a valuable resource and reference for the livestock export industry.

Executive Summary

The Mackinnon Project was asked to revise the Veterinary Drug Manual for Livestock Export to ensure it was as accurate and up to date as possible.

Each drug was individually checked for registration status, availability, recommended use, meat withholding period and export slaughter interval (ESI) if this data was available. Drugs were then removed or updated accordingly. New drugs were added after searching by category to check for new and recent product registrations.

Resources and references used were Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medical Authority (APVMA), MIMS IVS Manual (December 2007) and direct contact with pharmaceutical companies if and as required.

The written text was also reviewed and revised if products and commercial practices differed from when the manual was originally compiled.

The live export industry will benefit from this work by having an accurate and up to date manual as a guide for those responsible for animal health working in the sector. In turn, animal welfare is optimised through better understanding of product indication and effective use. International markets are protected through accurate guidelines and understanding of meat withholding periods and export slaughter intervals. This benefits Australian Agriculture as a whole.

Contents

1 Background

Due to constant changes in registration and availability of veterinary pharmaceuticals, guidelines for the use of drugs and corresponding withholding periods in export livestock are very quickly outdated. It is crucial that this information be as up to date and accurate as possible for live export. The Mackinnon Project was therefore asked to revise and update the original Veterinary Drug Manual for Livestock Export.

2 Project Objectives

The objectives in revising the Veterinary Drug Manual for Livestock Export were to ensure that the guidelines for using veterinary pharmaceuticals in the live export industry were as up to date and accurate and possible. This will ensure that products are used correctly and meat withholding periods are known and strictly observed. This in turn protects international markets and provides confidence that guidelines are understood and adhered to.

3 Methodology

The methodology used in reviewing the Veterinary Drug Manual for Livestock Export involved individually checking each listed drug for current registration status, availability, appropriate use, meat withholding period and export slaughter interval (if this was established). Drugs were updated or deleted accordingly. New drugs were added based on category searches for new and recently registered products and depending on their likelihood of use in livestock for export. Text was reviewed to ensure explanatory information and current commercial practices were as up to date as possible.

4 Results and Discussion

The revision process was completed very thoroughly as planned, but was much more time consuming than originally budgeted for.

In some circumstances, drugs were listed as registered with APVMA but were not listed by MIMS. Thus, they may not have been commercially available despite their registration being maintained. However, drugs in this category that may be held in private inventory are still able to be used therapeutically providing they are within expiry limits - and were therefore included in the revised edition. Contact was made with the pharmaceutical company concerned where confusion existed regarding any individual products.

5 Success in Achieving Objectives

The objectives in revising the Veterinary Drug Manual for Livestock Export were achieved successfully in that the guidelines for veterinary pharmaceutical use in the live export industry were as up to date and accurate as possible at the time of submission of the revised draft to MLA.

6 Impact on Meat and Livestock Industry – now and in five years time

Accurate information regarding drugs appropriate for export livestock is very important in both the short and long term.

Animal welfare is optimised through using the most appropriate therapeutic product for a given purpose and, where choice between products exists, doing this within the constraints posed by meat withholding period and export slaughter interval. Access to this information makes the decision-making process regarding choice of treatment far more rigorous.

Export markets are maintained and protected by providing healthy livestock regardless of their purpose at destination. By strictly observing the restrictions of meat withholding periods and export slaughter intervals, market confidence is sustained.

7 Conclusions and Recommendations

The Veterinary Drug Manual for Livestock Export is an important resource. Ensuring this resource is as up to date and accurate as possible is vital in continuing to provide a market product that meets expectations.

The veterinary pharmaceutical industry is constantly changing. Drug registration and availability is already likely to be different to when the revised draft was submitted to MLA. It is not possible to avoid this totally but it does make it very important to periodically update the manual, and to make strict recommendations when promoting its use. All users of the manual should be made aware that products are likely to change, and even withholding periods and export slaughter intervals may differ to that published as further information is established and verified.

8 Bibliography

APVMA PUBCRIS database, Australian Government, updated nightly

MIMS IVS, licensed electronic version, December 2007 edition