Special Issue

Risks and Current Knowledge of Antimicrobial Resistance in Companion Animals

Message from the Guest Editors

In the global overview of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), several efforts have been made to better understand and control its spread in livestock animals, because a major proportion of veterinary antibiotics is used on them. But in recent years, following the One Health approach, companion animals have also been receiving more and more attention. The evidence of the transmission of AMR bacteria, genes, and genetic mobile elements has been described by multiple studies, and their role in AMR dynamics is increasing in importance for four main reasons: first, their increasing presence in family households, especially in high-income countries; second, the more frequent direct contact they have with humans compared with livestock or wildlife; third, the frequent use of the same antibiotics for the same pathologies, with an enhanced opportunity to develop the same resistances; and fourth, the risk of bidirectional transmission, not only animal-to-human but also human-to-animal (reverse zoonosis), with a major risk of developing infections not treatable with drugs licensed for companion animals, and their potential emergence as maintenance reservoirs of AMR.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Djamel Drider
UMR Transfrontalière BioEcoAgro 1158, Université de Lille, Lille, France

Dr. Raffaele Scarpellini
Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 November 2025

Antibiotics

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.6
CiteScore 8.7
Indexed in PubMed

mdpi.com/si/234505

Antibiotics
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
antibiotics@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

There are very few fields that attract as much attention as scientific endeavor related to antibiotic discovery, use and preservation. The public, patients, scientists, clinicians, policy-makers, NGOs, governments, and supra-governmental organizations are all focusing intensively on it: all are concerned that we use our existing agents more effectively, and develop and evaluate new interventions in time to face emerging challenges for the benefit of present and future generations. We need every discipline to contribute and collaborate: molecular, microbiological, clinical, epidemiological, geographic, economic, social scientific and policy disciples are all key. *Antibiotics* is a nimble, inclusive and rigorous indexed journal as an enabling platform for all who can contribute to solving the greatest broad concerns of the modern world.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Nicholas Dixon
School of Chemistry and Molecular Bioscience, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW 2522, Australia

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