



**Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicine
Exclusions
Dated – 1 September 2003**

The *Code of Practice For Petfood Processing Part 2.1: Slaughter and Killing of Farmed Mammals* – requires operators to determine the suitability of animals for petfood through the completion of the ante-mortem and post-mortem examination procedures – which includes a review of representative supplier statements.

As a result of the ante-mortem examination procedures, the examiner may become aware of certain animals that have been exposed to agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines.

Where an animal has been treated with a veterinary medicine, the examiner must additionally determine whether the animal material remains suitable for petfood processing, or whether the animal must be processed under specified conditions - *Code of Practice section 6.2.6* (e.g. further processed in a controlled manner).

Where a supplier has declared that an animal has been treated with a veterinary medicine, operators are expected to take the following actions.

1) Official market access requirements

Where an operator intends to export product for animal consumption petfood, all product must be derived from animals that were declared by the supplier as being outside any residue withholding period.

In addition when notified by way of an Official Market Access Requirement (OMAR), animal product and material must be derived from animals that were declared by the supplier as being outside any residue withholding period.

2) All veterinary medicines

All animals slaughtered for petfood must be subject to post-mortem examination procedures.

In all cases whether the animal is declared to be within a 'withholding period' or not, the examiner is expected to routinely look for evidence of and remove any identifiable injection site lesion.

The following veterinary medicines do not have notified 'withholding periods', however the injection site and the residues they contain may cause harm to animals if consumed directly.

Injected long acting mineral supplements:

- Selenium
- Copper

In all cases where an animal is notified as being within a notified 'withholding period' for an injected veterinary medicine, the post-mortem examiner must examine for and remove any identifiable injection site lesion.

Injection site lesions may contain high levels of active ingredient and should be removed as a precautionary risk reduction measure.

3) Veterinary medicines requiring additional precaution

Where an animal is notified as being within a notified 'withholding period' for the listed injected veterinary medicines, the post-mortem examiner must examine carefully for and remove any identifiable injection site lesions.

(Most common injection sites are: neck, rump and brisket area)

Injection site lesions containing residues of veterinary medicines in this category can be a source of hazard to some pets if the injection site lesion is consumed.

- Injected '*macrolide*'– veterinary medicines
 - Abamectin
 - Ivermectin
 - Moxidectin
 - Doramectin

The Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Internet site can be used to check the contents of a product - 'active ingredient' e.g. Ivermectin if the supplier provides the product 'Trade Name' e.g. Ivomec.

Injection site lesions may contain high levels of active ingredient and should be removed as a precautionary risk reduction measure.

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/acvm/registers-lists/acvm-register/index.htm>

4) Veterinary medicines requiring total exclusion from petfood

Where an animal is notified as having been treated with a listed veterinary medicine or agricultural compound under this section, the animal material must be excluded to the extent required by this section.

- **Animals treated with hormonal growth promotants**

The ears of animals that have been treated with hormonal growth promotants are to be disposed of as unsuitable for petfood manufacture.

Hormonal implants in the ears of treated cattle can be a source of hazard if consumed by pets.

- **Intraruminal (inside stomach) devices / capsules**

Operators intending to use the stomach of ruminants (e.g. cattle, sheep, goats deer etc) as a raw material for the manufacture of petfood, must ensure any intraruminal devices / capsules when found are disposed of.

Intraruminal devices can be a source of high levels of veterinary medicine and must be disposed of by means other than rendering.

- **Mammary glands (udders) treated with intra mammary preparations**

All mammary glands treated with veterinary remedies are to be disposed of as unsuitable for petfood.

Mammary glands can be treated with high concentrations of veterinary medicine, particularly during the dry cow season or during a case of mastitis.

5) Exclusion for wholesomeness

Anecdotal evidence suggests that some agricultural compounds and veterinary medicine residues, while not a petfood safety concern, may affect the palatability of petfood products.

The NZFSA does not currently have any data to support any recommendation for exclusion at this point in time.

Therefore operators when alerted of palatability concerns should instigate trace back procedures to check for evidence of veterinary remedy inclusion in the offending product. Records should be kept of customer concerns and any supporting information found on trace back that could be linked to agricultural compound and veterinary medicine use.

The NZFSA and NZPFMA may in the future request this information be submitted and pooled for statistical analysis. Where there is evidence to suggest a veterinary remedy or agricultural compound represents a wholesomeness concern, then a recommendation will be made in association with the NZPFMA for the addition of the compound or medicine to the official list for exclusion.

The most up to date list of veterinary medicines requiring exclusion from petfood can be found at:

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/subject/petfood/index.htm>

Operators should request to be automatically updated of changes to this page through applying for the URL minder.