

A SURVEY ON THE RATIONAL USAGE OF ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS IN SMALL ANIMAL CLINICS AND FARMS IN TRINIDAD AND JAMAICA

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Antibiotics are arbitrarily used in veterinary medicine. This continued practice contributes to antimicrobial resistance - a growing concern worldwide. Unfortunately, there are no public records for antimicrobial usage (frequency or dosages) administered to animals in two major CARICOM countries; Trinidad and Jamaica. Surveillance would encourage the prospect of amendments and discussion on a Caribbean-based antimicrobial protocol.

An online survey was conducted using quantitative, cross-sectional interviews via email on a calculated sample size of small animal clinics and farms within these countries. Results revealed that, 95.2 % of clinics and farms in Jamaica, as well as 87.1% in Trinidad lacked the usage of standard antimicrobial protocols which could be attributed to limited availability of resources. It was observed that the broad-spectrum antibiotic, *Amoxicillin*, is the most commonly used drug in small animal clinics and farms in both countries, which could account for the potential of an increased risk of antimicrobial resistance.

Word Count: 150

