

# 3 frequently asked questions about antibiotics



## #1 My cat has a cold, can antibiotics help?

**No, because antibiotics do not work against all infections.**

If your cat is sneezing, it can be due to several causes. If it's an infection, it's likely to be viral. Antibiotics are only effective against bacteria, not viruses.

## #2 If my dog is treated with antibiotics, do I need to take extra hygiene measures?

**Yes, because if your dog is a carrier of resistant bacteria, it may pass them on.**

Good hygiene, such as washing your hands after contact with your dog, is always important, especially when it is ill.

## #3 My budgie has the same symptoms as last year, may I use the remaining antibiotics?

**No, you should always get the advice of your vet before giving antibiotics.**

Even if the symptoms look the same, you don't know if it's exactly the same disease, and therefore whether it's worth treating with antibiotics.

## Did you know ?

Antibiotic resistance affects both humans and animals. Animals are also carriers of bacteria that are potentially resistant and complicate the treatment of infections.

**Antibiotics are only given to animals on prescription by the vet.**

Only the vet knows if it is appropriate to give your pet antibiotics. This involves examining your pet and understanding the cause of its illness.

**Antibiotics used in animals can lead to resistance in bacteria that are infectious to humans.**

Some bacteria are transmitted from animals to humans and vice versa. Similarly, some bacteria can pass on their resistance traits to each other.

**Antibiotics should not be thrown down the sink, toilet or in the bin.**

You should take them to your pharmacist who will handle them in such a way as to avoid contamination of the environment.

**A better use of antibiotics requires the advice of your vet. So let's talk about it.**



To find out more, visit [letstalkantibiotics.be](https://letstalkantibiotics.be)

This campaign is part of the "One Health" national action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance, coordinated by the FPS Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment. Responsible editor: Dirk Ramaekers, avenue Galilée/Galilleelaan, 5 box 2, 1210 Brussels



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