



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee

ACMD Call for Evidence – Illicit Supply of Medicines Inquiry

13 June 2014

Thank you for inviting the College to respond to your Call for Evidence. The College has consulted a number of its specialty advisory committees for advice. I am writing to you on behalf of the Royal College of Pathologists' Specialty Advisory Committee on Veterinary Pathology and its chair, Professor Cheryl Scudamore.

Veterinary Pathology is one of the 19 specialties within The Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath). The College is a professional membership organisation with charitable status. Pathology is the science at the heart of modern medicine and is a core component in 70% of clinical interventions (diagnosis, choice of treatment, efficacy of treatment) and the College is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and to promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology.

Antimicrobial resistance continues to be a concern for both human and veterinary medicine. One of the major issues is that the control of antibiotics varies enormously from country to country and this poses significant issues regarding the control of these important medicines. In particular, there are concerns regarding the illicit use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals and specifically with regard to the use of antibiotics that have a broad spectrum of action. Furthermore, the illicit and unsupervised use of antibiotics in animals can result in sub-optimal use and this may result in welfare issues for the animals and ultimately the development of antibiotic resistance, which may be transfer to humans through the food-chain. In order to tackle this emerging issue, a concerted One-health, One medicine approach where medical doctors, veterinary surgeons and para-professionals work collaboratively to control and monitor the illicit use of antimicrobials in animals and humans is urgently required.

Professor Roberto Marcello La Ragione FRCPATH

Microbiology representative, Specialty Advisory Committee on Veterinary Pathology

