

## IFAH Statement in response to the WHO's World Health Day, 7 April 2011

The International Federation for Animal Health, IFAH, welcomes the initiative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to highlight the need to combat the build-up of resistance to medicines and in particular resistance to antimicrobials, however warns against a blanket call for reduction of antimicrobial use in food-producing animals.

IFAH's Executive Director Barbara Freischem explains: "In spite of disease prevention and bio-security measures, there are still many bacterial diseases and infections circulating amongst animals just as there are amongst humans. These need to be treated to protect both animal and human health as well as animal welfare. It is therefore in the interest of all to keep existing medicines working, and this is best achieved by encouraging responsible use. IFAH and its members are committed to a range of initiatives which promote this. Effective surveillance of the use and misuse of medicines will provide the data for science-based decision making, and with infection control and the commitment that responsible use initiatives foster, we are working to ensure that our veterinary medicines remain effective and safe."

### Notes for editors

#### IFAH

The International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) is an organisation representing manufacturers of veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in both developed and developing countries across five continents. The mission of IFAH is to foster a greater understanding of animal health matters and promote a predictable, science-based regulatory environment that facilitates the supply of innovative and quality animal medicines, vaccines and other animal health products into a competitive market place. These products contribute to a healthy and safe food supply as well as a high standard of health and welfare for animals and people.

For further information on IFAH, please visit [www.ifahsec.org](http://www.ifahsec.org).

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**For further press information please contact**  
**Kim Hardie**, Communications Director  
Tel.: +32 2 543 75 75  
E-mail: [k.hardie@ifahsec.org](mailto:k.hardie@ifahsec.org)

**IFAH**  
Rue Defacqz 1  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium

Tel.: +32 2 541 0111  
Fax: +32 2 537 0049  
E-mail: [info@ifahsec.org](mailto:info@ifahsec.org)  
Website: [www.ifahsec.org](http://www.ifahsec.org)  
VAT: BE 440 541 831