



Title: Cascade consent

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- Let's think now about consent for medicines prescribed under the Cascade. Daniel Murphy from NOAH has explained all about the Cascade and responsible and legal use of antibiotics using the Cascade.

Let's talk about consent. It's not a legal requirement under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations to obtain informed consent from the owner of an animal being treated with a medicine prescribed under the Cascade, but it is a requirement in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct. So therefore, something we all have to do think about. So what does it say in the Code of Conduct? It says a decision to use a medicine which is not authorised for the condition and the species being treated, where one is available should not be taken lightly or without justification. And Daniel has discussed all the pros and cons of this. But in such cases, clients should be made aware of the intended use of the unauthorised medicine and given a clear indication of the potential side effects.

Their consent should be obtained in writing. And then there's a little footnote note about the case of exotic species, where there was no authorised medicines, then they should be made to consent from the start. And that's not really relevant to the farm species, except maybe when you'd come to llamas and alpacas and species like that. But anyway, let's think about how we're going to get this consent in writing.

Practise Standards again says that assessors will wish to see evidence that Cascade medicines are clearly identified to owners give informed consent for their use. So the most important thing is that we discuss with owners the side effect, possible side effects, the reason that we're using them, the fact that there are no not authorised, that we're prescribing them under the Cascade. So there's transparency, so owners are perfectly aware that their animal is being prescribed a medicine under the Cascade. After the discussion, which is the really important part, then there should be a written form for signature for the owner to sign that they are happy with this. This can be very difficult in farm practise. I realise that.

Some practises do deal with this by having stamps on the chits that they give to that farmers on visits, where they catch the person, who of course might not be the owner of the animals, but they get the person to just sign that they've explained this to them. It could also be, in circumstances where practises have annual meetings with farms in order to set up herd health plans and to have annual meetings, that it could be that at those annual meetings, if some medicines are being used, for example, most steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs might be being used in sheep for lamenesses or mastitis, and there are no authorised non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. So at that meeting, provided that it was fully explained, but just some occasions and for certain indications which are actually mentioned, these are used and consent is got at that meeting from the owner of the flock or the owner of the herd of cattle. Then only for clearly identified medicines, not a general discussion, and along with giving all the details. And at the time they will still need to be given the details of

withdrawal periods, et cetera. Then that may be a way of getting informed consent and documenting it. It is not acceptable to just get them to sign a consent form for everything and anything that might be given forever. Specific consent needs to be obtained for each unauthorised medicine used. And the Code of Conduct and the Practise Standard's guidance is all available. Thank you.

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