

Supporting and protecting you

Guidance for Farmers on Keeping and Retention of Veterinary Medicine Records

Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007
Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013
Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006
Animal and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and
Maximum Residue Limits) Regulation 1997

Reasons for keeping these records

These records have a threefold purpose. Firstly the record assists in ensuring that human food is safe and free from veterinary drug residues. This includes meat and all other products (e.g. milk, eggs, honey, wool, etc). Secondly it is to provide a record that livestock and other creatures have been treated in a timely and appropriate manner to prevent them from being subjected to unnecessary suffering. Finally it is to record that veterinary medicines have been obtained from a legitimate source, that they have been used correctly in accordance with the product licence provisions, except where otherwise directed by a Veterinary Surgeon, and any that is not used has been disposed of in an appropriate manner.

*If you are the keeper of food producing animals, or treating farm animals which will end up as food intended for human consumption, you must keep a record of the proof of purchase of all veterinary medicinal products bought for those animals or if you did not buy them, documentary evidence of how you acquired them, and a record of any veterinary medicinal product you give them or treat them with.

A format for the keeping of these records is set out on the attached sheet.

*Any person required to keep a record, must retain that record for a period of five years, following the administration or other disposal of the product. Where prescriptions are used as the record, they must be kept for five years, and the actual dates of administration of the treatment must be recorded, irrespective of whether or not the animal concerned is no longer in your possession or has been slaughtered or has died during that period.

*Send animals for slaughter **ONLY AFTER** the end of the withdrawal period, for the veterinary medicinal product, which has been administered.

*A record shall be maintained of any medicinal treatment given to animals, which are bred or kept for the production of food, wool, or skin or for other farming purposes, and the number of mortalities found on each inspection.

*If a veterinary surgeon administers a veterinary medicinal product to a food producing animal he must either enter the information in the keeper's records or give it to the keeper in writing in which case the keeper must enter the details required in his records.

*Proof of purchase must be retained for at least five years.

NOTE – Record Keeping for Horses.

*Community legislation defines the horse as a food-producing species. Therefore keepers are required to maintain records for any transactions involving the retail sale of veterinary medicinal products for administration to horses unless the specific animal has been declared as **not** intended for human consumption in the horse passport. These records must be kept in all cases where the product has been used to treat a horse if the particular animal is likely to go for human consumption at any time in the future. The record may be kept within the passport or elsewhere as desired.*

Records of Products Administered to a Food – Producing Animal Under The Cascade:-

(1) A Veterinary surgeon administering a veterinary medicinal product to food-producing animals under the cascade, or permitting another person to administer it under his responsibility, must as soon as is reasonably practicable, record –

- a) The date he examined the animals;
- b) The name and address of the owner;
- c) The identification and number of animals treated;
- d) The result of the veterinary surgeon's clinical assessment;
- e) The trade name of the product if there is one;
- f) The manufacturer's batch number shown on the product if there is one;
- g) The name and quantity of the active substances;
- h) The doses administered or supplied;
- i) The duration of treatment; and
- j) The withdrawal period.

(2) He must keep the record for at least five years

W A R N I N G

IT IS AN OFFENCE:

*To import an unauthorised veterinary medicinal product.

*To fail to detain an animal for inspection when required by an inspector

*To sell or supply an animal for slaughter for human consumption:-

- (i) which contains, or to which there has been administered an unauthorised substance or product,
- (ii) which contains excess residues of veterinary medicines (above the maximum residue limit),
- (iii) if the withdrawal period for the product administered to an animal including medicated feeding stuffs, has not expired.

*To use veterinary medicines outside the terms of their licence, unless prescribed by your veterinary surgeon.

*To use hormones or other unlicensed substances for growth promotion purposes.

*To fail to keep the records set out overleaf.

WITHDRAWAL PERIODS FOR ANIMAL MEDICINES ARE CHANGING ALL THE TIME - CONSULT YOUR VETERINARY SURGEON FOR UP-TO-DATE WITHDRAWAL PERIODS.



Worcestershire
Local Enterprise Partnership

NAME AND FULL ADDRESS OF PERSON KEEPING RECORD		NAME:	HOLDING NUMBER:
ADDRESS:		TEL NO:	FLOCK/HERD NUMBER:
	POSTCODE:	E MAIL:	PARISH:

TO BE COMPLETED AT TIME ACQUISITION	TO BE COMPLETED AT TIME OF ADMINISTRATION
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Name and Address of Supplier of Medicinal Product	Date Acquired	Identity and Quantity of Medicinal Product			Date of Administration	Withdrawal Period	Identification of Animal or Batch of Animals Treated		Date treatment finished	Date withdrawal period ended	Name of person administering veterinary medicine	Amount of Product Administered & Total quantity of veterinary medicine Used	Date Quantity & route of disposal if not administered	Reasons for treatment
		Name	Batch No	Quantity			ID	Number Treated						

NB

- Columns headed in italics relate to information which is **NOT** a statutory requirement but will assist to meet some Farm Assurance Scheme requirements.
- Proof of Purchase of all veterinary medicinal products must be kept (if not purchased, documentary evidence of how acquired). These are general guidance notes only, and cannot be taken as an authoritative view of the law