

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF VETERINARY IPC

Angela Willemsen

BN, BVSc, MHIthSc(HIthProm), PhD, RN,

Acknowledgement of Country

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the Muwinina people and the Palawa/Pakana communities of Nipaluna, as well as Traditional Owners of the lands of all participants

I also pay my respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge any First Nations peoples here today.



Disclosures

Development and updating of, and facilitating the ACIPC Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course



Image: Amazon Prime URL: <https://www.amazon.com.au/Dilator-Speculum-Livestock-Veterinary-Instrument/dp/BoCB6F1R7g> 22Oct2025



Image: Willemsen-2022



Image: Willemsen

Queensland vet dies from Hendra virus

September 2, 2009 – 9:02am

Three Queensland vets face prosecution over how they managed Hendra cases



By Kallee Buchanan

QLD Country Hour

Agriculture

Fri 25 Sep 2015

Queensland vet found guilty of breaching workplace laws while treating a horse with Hendra virus



By Kallee Buchanan

QLD Country Hour

Agriculture

Fri 30 Sep 2016

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES ANIMAL & HUMAN HEALTH

	Veterinary	Human
Foundation	Evidence based practice with foundations in biology, anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology	
Ethical practice	Need for informed consent, welfare considerations such as analgesia, adherence to professional standards and duty of care	
Public health role	Infectious and zoonotic disease control, food safety and disease prevention	
Specialisations	General practice, dentistry, cardiology, medicine etc.	
Communication	Via owner + physical exam Animals are 'property'	Direct (+/- paediatrics, disabilities)
Regulatory	APVMA, WH&S, Guidelines	TGA, WH&S, Standards, Guidelines
Funding model	Fee for service, Insurance	Medicare, PBS, Insurance
Species	Numerous - gms to tonne	One
Environment	Controlled + uncontrolled - farm	Controlled + uncontrolled - paramedic
Terminology	Biosecurity Nosocomial	IPC Healthcare-associated infection

Surgery – small animal



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

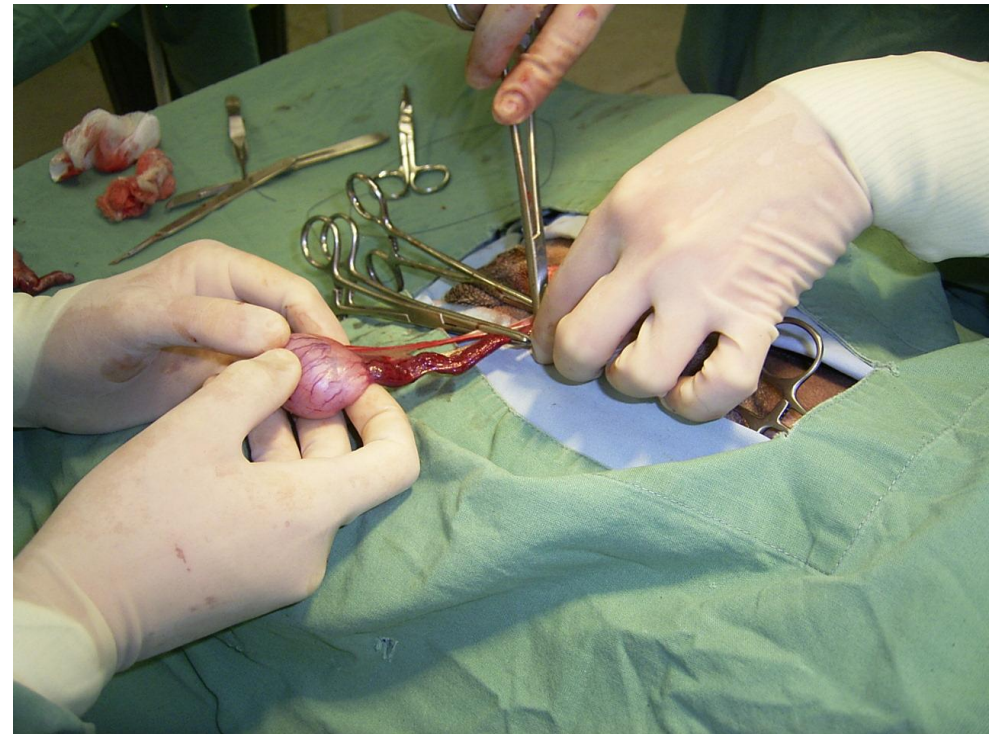


Image: Willemsen-2003

Large animal practice



Image: Willemsen



Image: Surveillance Wild Pigs, NT Guy Weerasinghe



Image: Surveillance Birds, NT, Guy Weerasinghe



Hand hygiene



Image: Willemsen-2017



Image: Willemsen-2017

Differences



Image: Willemsen-2010



Image: Willemsen-2007



Image: Willemsen-2003

THE BAD

Media portrayals



Image: Yorkshire Vet



Source: Tuttbauer website URL: <https://tuttbauer.com/blog/veterinary-equipment-what-you-need-when-setting-clinic>



Image: Willemsen-2010

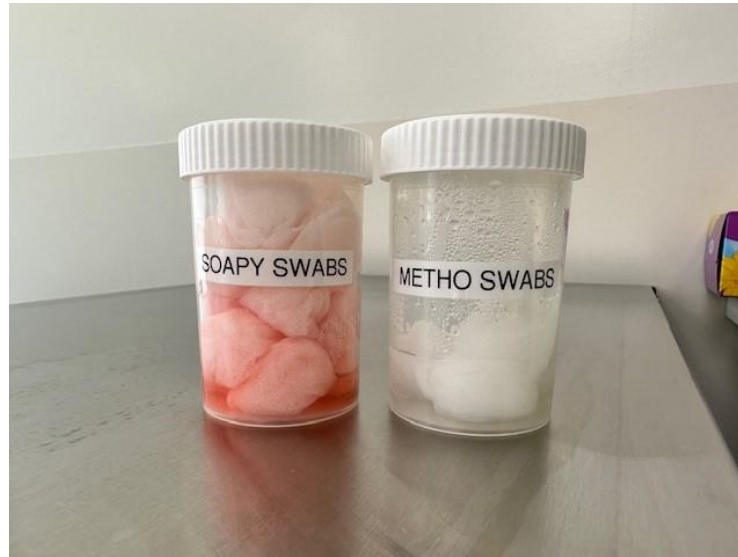


Image: Willemsen-2018



Image: Willemsen-2018





Article

Antimicrobial Resistance in Companion Analysis on Clinical Veterinary Hospital

Raffaele Scarpellini¹, Silvia Piva¹,
Erika Esposito¹, Fabio Tumietto²

Mezzasalma et al. *BMC Veterinary Research* (2025) 21:618
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12917-025-04972-w>

BMC Veterinary Research

ORIGINAL RESEARCH
published: 20 January 2021
doi: 10.3389/fvets.2020.608901

RESEARCH

Open Access



Genomic tracing and resolution of environmental *Klebsiella pneumoniae* ST307 CTX-M-15 linked to a nosocomial urinary tract infection in a cat: a veterinary teaching hospital case study

Nicolò Mezzasalma^{1†}, Costanza Spadini^{1†}, Martina Rega¹, Sabrina Lucia Montanaro¹, Mattia Iannarelli¹,
Emanuela Cataldo¹, Francesca Fidanzio¹, Andrea Corsini¹, Cecilia Quintavalla¹, Erika Scaltriti², Martina Tambassi²,
Cristina Bacci¹, Silvia Bonardi¹ and Clotilde Silvia Cabassi¹

DOI: 10.1002/vms3.1073

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Does colonization with
Enterobacteriaceae, and
the risk for postopera

Heidrun Gehlen¹ | Katja-Sophia
Antina Lübke-Becker^{3,4} | Sabita D. Stoeckle¹

very of
in a Companion
e and After
cedures

^{1,2}, Ricardo J. Soares Magalhães^{1,2},

[†] School of Veterinary Science, The University of Queensland, Gatton, QLD, Australia, ² Children's Health and Environment Program, Child Health Research Centre, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, Australia



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

One Health

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/onehlt



Coxiella burnetii seroprevalence and Q fever in Australian wildlife rehabilitators

Karen O. Mathews^{a,*}, Jenny-Ann Toribio^a, Jacqueline M. Norris^a, David Phalen^a, Nicholas Wood^{b,c}, Stephen R. Graves^d, Paul A. Sheehy^a, Katrina L. Bosward^a



FLOCK & HERD

CASE NOTES

A NOVEL OUTBREAK OF *BRUCELLA SUIIS* IN A VETERINARY PRACTICE: A ONE HEALTH INVESTIGATION

Cecily Moore and Emily Gibson

Posted Flock and Herd August 2025

The Asahi Shimbun | Asia & Japan Watch

 Search

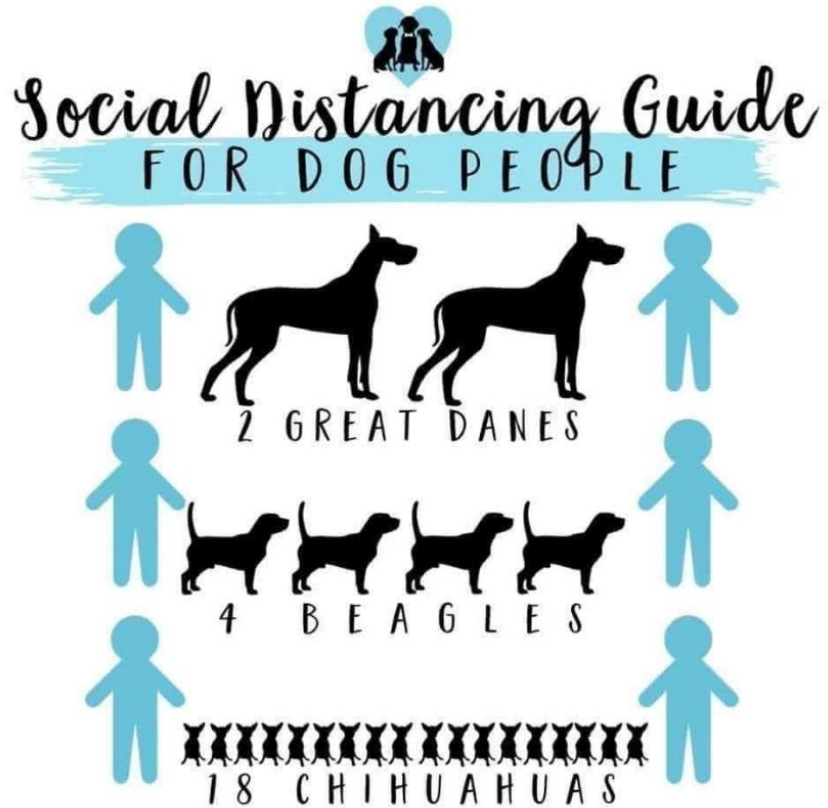
- HOME
- What's New
- National Report**
- Politics
- Business
- Asia & World
- Sci & Tech
- Cultu

The Asahi Shimbun > National Report > article

Veterinarian dies after treating cat infected with tick-borne virus

THE ASAHI SHIMBUN
June 13, 2025 at 18:03 JST

You don't know what you don't know



IMPROVEMENTS IN VETERINARY IPC



2017

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

GUIDELINES FOR VETERINARY PERSONAL BIOSECURITY

January 2017



And global guidelines, policies



Member Services

AVA Groups

Education & Events

Policy & Advocacy

AVA > Policy & Advocacy > Policies > Surgical, medical and other veterinary procedures - general > Infection prevention and control in veterinary workplaces

Infection prevention and control in veterinary workplaces

Print

Ratification Date: 21 Jan 2025

Purpose

To inform members of the veterinary profession about the key principles of infection prevention and control in veterinary workplaces, and point to useful further resources.

<https://www.ava.com.au/policy-advocacy/policies/surgical-medical-and-other-veterinary-procedures-general/infection-prevention-and-control-in-veterinary-workplaces/>

AS 5369:2023 [Current]

Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities

The principles of this document may be applied to the reprocessing of RMDs/other devices used in veterinary practice.



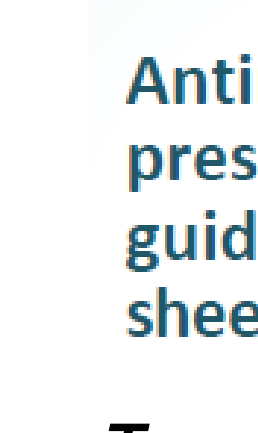
**Antimicrobial
prescribing
guidelines for
feedlot cattle**



**Antimicrobial
prescribing
guidelines for
poultry**



**Antimicrobial
prescribing
guidelines
for pigs**



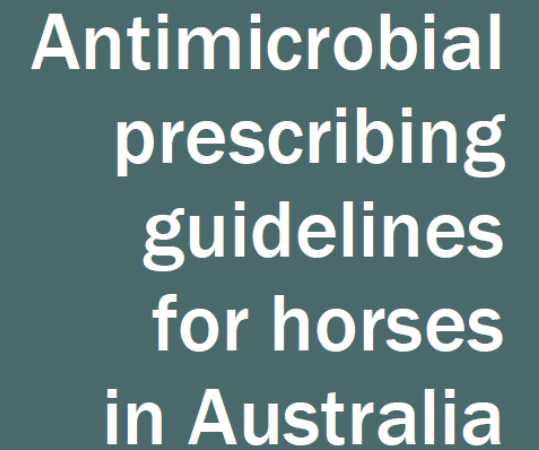
**Antimicrobial
prescribing
guidelines for
sheep**



**Antimicrobial
prescribing
guidelines for
dairy cattle**

To come:

- *Small mammals*
- *Wildlife*
- *Camelids*
- *Fish*



**Antimicrobial
prescribing
guidelines
for horses
in Australia**

Veterinary IPC positions

- UK – dedicated Veterinary Technician IPC
- USA – dedicated IPC practitioners in veterinary practices
- Australia – Veterinary IPC champions

ACIPC Veterinary SIG established 2025

- Members Australia, UK, Portugal
- Include veterinary and human healthcare practitioners





7 Countries

- Australia
- Fiji
- Canada
- England
- Portugal
- Indonesia
- Bhutan

2nd course underway
Next course: 6 March 2026

The ACIPC logo is at the top left. The title 'Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control' is centered in a large, bold, dark blue font, enclosed in large yellow brackets.

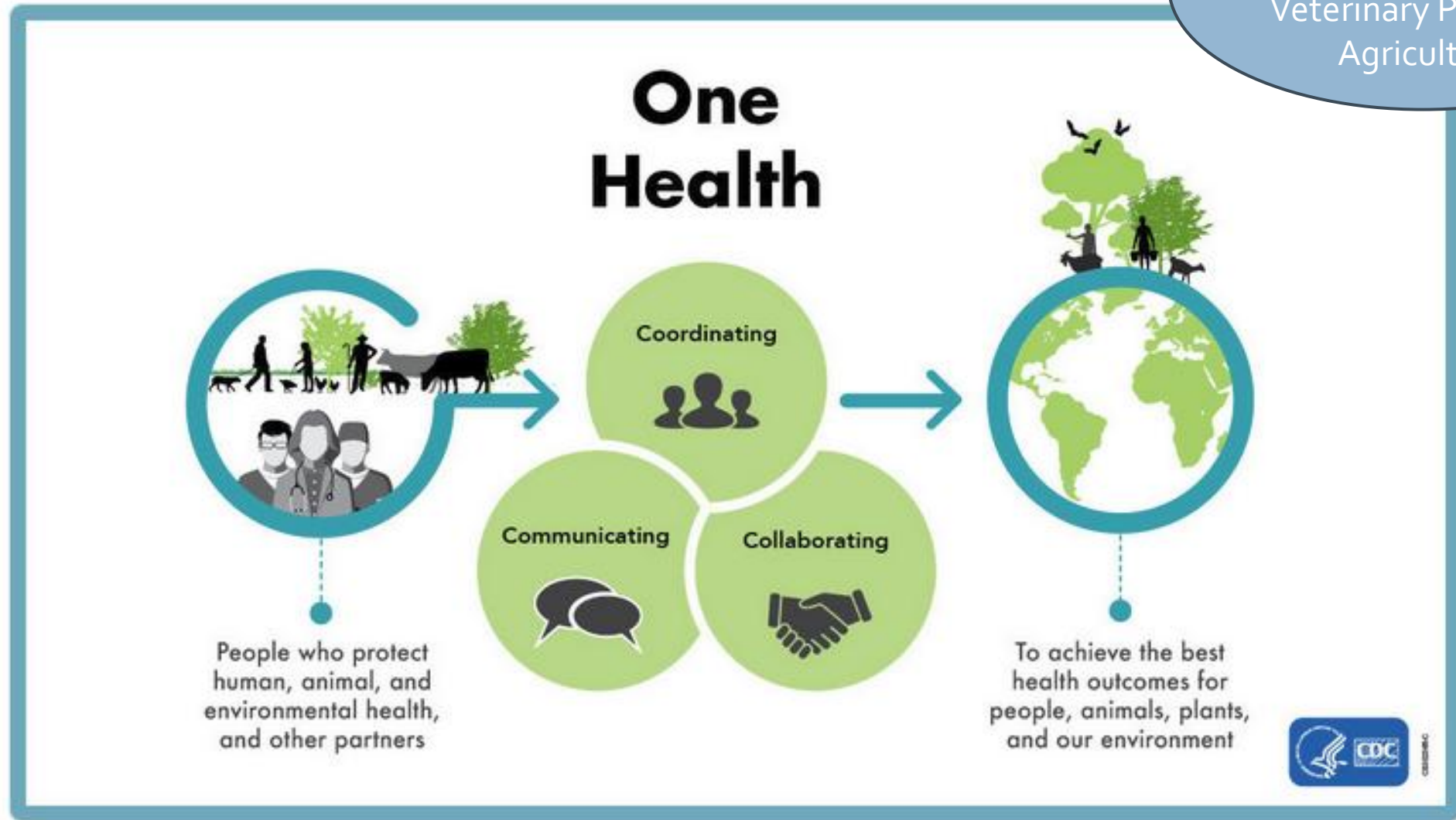
**NEW
IN 2024**

This online course has been designed for veterinary staff (veterinarians, veterinary nurses, veterinary technicians) working in all veterinary settings. It runs over 24 weeks.

THE FUTURE OF VETERINARY IPC

One Health is the norm

GPs/ID physicians
Hospitals
Veterinary Practices
Agriculture





[Home](#)

[Standards](#)

[Our work](#)

[Resource library](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[For consumers](#)

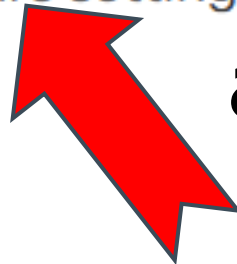
[About](#)

[Home](#) > [Our work](#) > [Infection prevention and control](#) > [National Hand Hygiene Initiative \(NH](#)

Hand hygiene audit tools

There are a number of tools available to support hand hygiene auditing in acute non-acute healthcare settings.

and veterinary



AMR Reporting & Surveillance



OBJECTIVE 5 INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE AND USAGE

No mandatory reporting system for dogs & cats

- close contact with humans

Some AMR monitoring:

- production animals (livestock)
- wildlife

Why does it matter?

- One Health!
- Antimicrobial usage
- Informs stewardship programs
- Shared reporting → Reduces risk of cross-species transmission
- Identify potential reservoirs of resistance
- Global reporting

Workplace culture
change - IPC normal



Post-graduate specialisation
Veterinary Technicians/Nurses



Multidisciplinary IPC
Conferences



IPC embedded in
undergraduate courses



IPC is no longer the
'baddie'

Veterinary IPC
has come a long way in 20 years...

What will we see in the next 20?

Acknowledgements

Ms. Leslie Kollman, BS, CVT, CIC

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. APIC

Dr Guyan Weerasinghe, BVSc, MPH, DACVPM

NAQS Animal Health Technical Manager, Science and Surveillance Group,
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

References

Australian Government. One Health Master Action Plan for Australia's National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2020 and beyond. 2021. Available from: <https://www.amr.gov.au/resources/one-health-master-action-plan-australias-national-antimicrobial-resistance-strategy-2020>.

Australian Veterinary Association. Antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for dairy cattle: Australian Veterinary Association,; 2022.

Australian Veterinary Association. Antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for pigs. 2022:60.

Australian Veterinary Association. Guidelines for veterinary personal biosecurity. Sydney: Australian Veterinary Association; 2017 [updated May 2017. 3rd:[Available from: <http://www.ava.com.au/sites/default/files/Guidelines-for-veterinary-personal-biosecurity-2017-FINAL.pdf>.

Batey R, Nilon P, Page SW, Browning GF, Norris JM. Antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for sheep. Australian veterinary journal. 2024;102(4):103-42.

Department of Health Disability and Ageing and Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry. AMR and animal health in Australia: Australian Government 2023 [updated 13 September 2023. Available from: <https://www.amr.gov.au/about-amr/amr-australia/animal-health>.

Gray P, Jenner R, Norris J, Page S, Browning GF, Australian Veterinary Association, et al. Antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for poultry 2021. Available from: <https://animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au/industry-stewardship/antimicrobial-prescribing-guidelines-for-poultry/>.

Hardefeldt L, Thomas K, Page S, Norris J, Browning G, El Hage C, et al. Antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for horses in Australia. Australian veterinary journal. 2025:260.

House JK, Izzo MM, Page SW, Browning GF, Norris JM. Antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for dairy cattle. Australian veterinary journal. 2024;102(4):143-86.

Taylor KA, Durrheim D, Heller J, O'Rourke B, Hope K, Merritt T, et al. Equine chlamydiosis-An emerging infectious disease requiring a one health surveillance approach. Zoonoses Public Health. 2018;65(1):218-21.

Thank you



0413 319 708

Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/angela-willemsen-088589147/>

