

# REVIEW OF EU VETERINARY RESIDUES LEGISLATION

## Which Legislation is affected?

Three pieces of legislation are affected:

- repeal and replacement **Regulation 2377/90**. This is the community procedure for assessing the safety of pharmacologically active substances in veterinary medicines and setting Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), where appropriate;
- amendment of **Directive 96/22/EC** (the 'hormones ban'), which strictly limits and controls the use of hormonally active substances, thyrostats and beta-agonists in animals; and
- Repeal and replacement of **Directive 96/23/EC**, which sets the rules for Member States' surveillance for residues of veterinary medicines and unauthorised substances in food.

## What is the background to this Review?

The Commission's thought the current legislation gave a very high level of consumer protection, but an unforeseen consequence was a reduced range of veterinary medicines for food-producing animals in the EU. This was partly due to the cost required to produce the data to support an application for a marketing authorisation.

The Commission was also aware of problems in implementing and enforcing the law on the control of residues in imports from non-member states (known as third countries). This was particularly where the residues detected were of substances not authorised in the EU. Residues of substances not authorised in the EU should not be present in imports.

## What are the aims of the review?

The Commission wanted to provide solutions that continued the high level of consumer protection and help international trade. It also wanted to widen the range of veterinary medicines available, so improving animal health and welfare.

## Has anything changed since the consultation in August?

VMD published a guide to the proposals when the VMD held its preliminary consultation in August 2007. Since then:

- **Regulation 2377/90**, a new element has been added – this is the possibility of using the European Medicines Evaluation Agency to set MRLs for biocides containing that are used in animal husbandry pharmacologically active substances ;
- **Directive 96/22/EC**, one new element has been added. This is removing the current prohibition on the use of beta-agonists in horses. The text of the amendment has now been approved by officials of the Member States and by the Council of Ministers, so is likely to proceed into law; and
- **Directive 96/23/EC**, there has been no progress, but the Commission has assured us that it wishes to move it forward in 2008.