

Illegal veterinary medicines

Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products

Beirut, Lebanon, 7-9 November 2017

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www.AnimalHealthMatters.org
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Illegal veterinary medicines

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Part 1:
**What we know about
illegal veterinary medicines ?**

What we know about illegal veterinary medicines ?

- HealthforAnimals completed global study
- Report will be available in early 2018
- Learn lessons from pharma, pesticide industries

Report addresses:

1. Risks to animals, human health, society
2. Illegal veterinary medicine distribution chains
3. Controlling illegal veterinary medicines
4. Recommendations for actions
 - Regulation and enforcement agencies
 - Veterinarians
 - Manufacturers of authorized medicines
 - Retailers, wholesalers
 - Farmers and pet owners



How we know it ?

It is illegal criminal activity - **difficult** to detect, investigate, **quantify**. The information we do have is based on 3 types of sources:

1. Law enforcement data and actions (and media coverage thereof)

- World Customs data, police forces, Interpol
- *“Seizure of counterfeit veterinary products”*, 2013 China
- *“Fake veterinary drugs on the market”*, 2012 Uganda
- *“Makers of fake veterinary medicine uncovered”*, 2013 Vietnam

2. Some testing in some markets – extrapolation

- testing in developed markets by governments and others
- FAO, OIE, etc. projects in other markets, particular Africa

3. Industry/veterinarians experiences in the market place

- sense of likely sizes of markets
- reps visiting vets, distributors, farmers, etc.

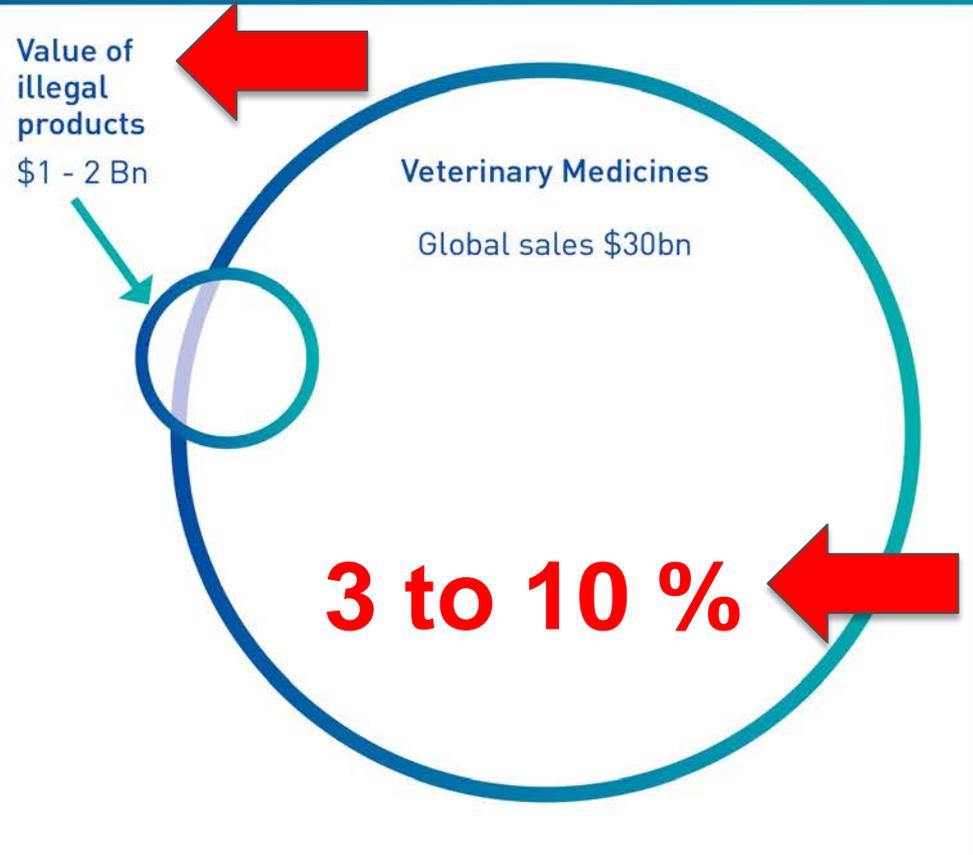
Different types of illegal veterinary medicines



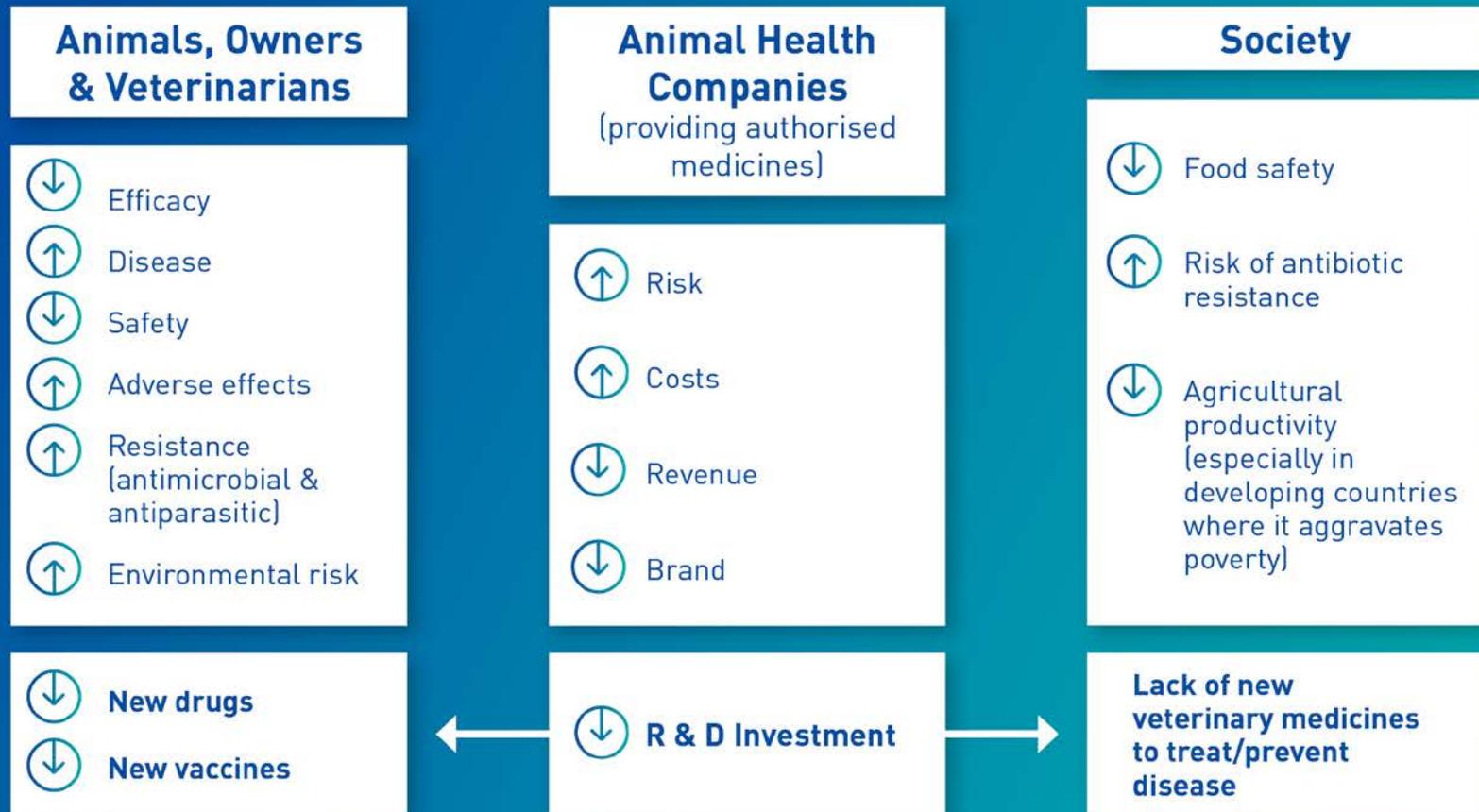
Authorized veterinary medicines are approved by regulators for the treatment and prevention of diseases/disorders, and includes vaccines and pharmaceutical drugs

Estimated value of illegal veterinary medicines

- Total loss estimated \$1 - 2 Bn
- International trade losses \$0.75 - 1.5 Bn
- Customs seizures exclude domestic (within country) losses
- Growing losses especially via e-commerce/ Internet and from compounding



Negatives impacts on different groups



Characteristics of markets with illegal vet. meds

Farmers and veterinary services

- access to quality medicines is poor in remoter areas
- poorly funded local research institutes
- lack of awareness among livestock farmers - focus on price

Distributors/importers

- weak distribution channels
- interest of small distributors is financial, not quality or return customers
- poor financial capacity of importers
- packaging of drugs is a limiting factor
- administrative procedures for imports long and bureaucratic

Authorities

- no government policies or resources
- inadequate regulations and enforcement - lack of governance
- existing regulations not implemented
- solutions (medicines/vaccines) do not exist or not up to date

Illegal veterinary medicines – main findings

1. There are illegal products in all countries

- different kinds and levels in different markets
- some types worse than others

2. This is likely a smaller problem than in human medicine

- production animals - not make economic sense to use substandard
- companion animals - people love them, why endanger their health
- smaller scale vet. market = lower profit margins = less criminal interest

3. There are incentives to make, sell use illegals in markets where:

- buyers are poorer and less informed about drawbacks
- criminal sellers are less likely to be caught/punished

4. Less illegal products in food-exporting countries because higher compliance/ enforcement

- in EU, US, Canada, etc. - illegal products mostly in companion market
- Sub-Saharan Africa – sometimes 60%+ of products illegal

“Counterfeiting” of veterinary medicines in some geographies is a reflection of the sophistication of the market.



Example of illegal veterinary products



Veterinary drugs sold in an African village market

(source of photos in presentation: Dr. Albert Douffissa. Presentation “ What is Needed to Improve Availability to Good Quality Veterinary Drugs and Vaccines.”)

Part 2:
What to do about it ?
How to achieve quality ?

What action should be taken?

Regulation & Enforcement Agencies

- Effective regulation
 - Necessary government resources
- Rigorous enforcement
- Collaboration
 - Police
 - Customs
 - Regulatory agencies
 - Professional bodies
 - Manufacturers
- Private prosecution, legal action

E-Commerce & Internet Sites

- Raise awareness
- Cease or comply
- Popup warning on legitimate sites
- Full compliance with legal requirements

Manufacturers of Authorised Medicines

- Raise awareness
- Collect data
- Leadership in working with enforcement agencies
- Evaluate technology to support enforcement
- Protect patents and trademarks
- Protect reputation

Veterinarians, Retailers, Wholesalers, Feed Mills

- Raise awareness
- Report illegal products
- Work with enforcement agencies
- Be alert and informed
- Do not encourage illegal compounded products and vaccines

Farmers

- Awareness of risks of illegal products:
 - Efficiency
 - Safety
 - Residues
 - Environment
- Business risk if illegal products are used
- Report illegal products

Pet Owners

- Awareness of risks of illegal products to efficiency and safety
- Report illegal products

Why it is important to use **quality** veterinary meds.?

Quality products important for farmers:

- if veterinary products don't work as they should, farmers lose animals
- lost animals = lower productivity = lost income

Quality products important for producers, who are:

- responsible to ensure quality in design, development, manufacturing, distribution
- ensure that all sources of variability affecting a process are identified and managed
- producers' reputation

Quality products important for society:

- poor products = poor production (meat, milk, eggs) = lower national productivity
- reputational risk for country damages export capacity
- disease spreading threatens other regions and countries
- consumer health risk of poor quality or fake drugs (residues and zoonosis)
- environmental risk

How regulatory requirements contribute to fight illegal meds.

Compliance with laws

- Good Manufacturing Practice or local manufacturing standards
- regulatory information update and information collection
- internal compliance system (check and balance)

Distribution requirement

- local company involvement (e.g. restriction on vaccines)
- Infrastructure for delivery (e.g. special storing condition, narcotic product, and toxic product)

Traceability

- product identification and record of delivery

Training and record system

- at the regulation change
- periodical reminding
- new staff addition, and new roles

What industry is doing and going to do more ?

1. Increase **awareness** and deliver an effective narrative
2. Collaborate with international and national enforcement **agencies** to raise priority of action
3. Improve utilization of **data** collection and analysis
4. Facilitate **identification of authenticity**



More information

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