

Hi Aarti,

Our position has not changed since the last time we spoke and our policy with regards to the use of antibiotics in our supply chain remains the same.

Kind regards,

Rachel

Rachel Pescod

Investor Relations Manager

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At Greene King we are proud to have now raised **£4 MILLION** for Macmillan Cancer Support, helping to fund more Macmillan healthcare professionals and nurses and making a real difference to the lives of people living with cancer.

Phase 2 (2017) response:

Greene King Policy on Responsible Use of Pharmaceuticals in Agriculture

Background

Greene King is committed to the long term sustainability of agriculture. For agriculture to be sustainable it must employ farming techniques that provide benefits to the environment, to the economy and to society. Part of these societal benefits would centre on maintaining or improving public health, enriching human communities and promoting animal health and welfare.

The use of pharmaceuticals, in particular antibiotics, may have both positive and negative impacts on human and animal well-being. If used responsibly, they have the capacity to reduce suffering and promote health and wellbeing in all species. If used in an unsustainable manner, development of resistance to these drugs by microbes limits their ability to treat infections, and represents a serious threat to human and animal communities alike.

Guidance from other sources

Greene King supports the European Commission's "Guidelines for the prudent use of antimicrobials in animals" (2015/C 299/04) and this policy is closely based around the principals therein. Suppliers should have read the main sections of this document and any specific advice relating to farmed species they supply into Greene King, and ensure that the companies they source from are also aware of it.

Within the context of the prescribing and supply of antimicrobials within the UK, Greene King suppliers are also directed to the British Veterinary Association's guidance for responsible antimicrobial use:

http://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/News_campaigns_and_policies/Policies/Medicines/BVA_Antimicrobial_Guidance.pdf

Overarching principals for all Greene King suppliers

Greene King suppliers should be working with their producers to work towards a rational reduction and reliance in the use of antimicrobial and anti-parasitic agents within agriculture. In particular, Greene-King suppliers should be working with their producers to apply a 'three R' approach to use of antibiotic usage:

1. **Reduction:** of the total amount of antibiotics used on farms by ensuring that only infections with bacterial involvement are treated; that prophylactic use does not form part of routine management and that metaphylactic treatment is done on a considered cost-benefit basis.
2. **Refinement:** to ensure that animals who require antimicrobial treatment are given the correct dosage, via the most appropriate route, for the correct duration, and using the earliest and narrowest class of drug necessary to reliably deliver a cure.
3. **Replacement:** of antibiotic usage with better husbandry techniques, stockmanship and infrastructure that lower the risk of disease.

Reduction in antimicrobial use should be done again within the constraints of long-term sustainability, i.e. in reducing the number of animals necessitating treatment, rather than a reduction in course length or dosage to animals under treatment (to the point where treatment efficacy is likely to be reduced and/or development of resistance is more likely). As part of a long term approach to sustainability, suppliers should not source from or support suppliers who are developing farming systems that increase dependency on pharmaceutical (antimicrobial or anthelmintic) use.

As part of this process it is expected that suppliers are actively working towards, and have a documented strategy for:

- Prevention of disease within farming systems, especially those necessitating use of antimicrobials. This should be done primarily through biosecurity to prevent the ingress of novel infections to the herd/flock, and improvement of management, stockmanship and infrastructure. For endemic diseases, reduction or eradication via changes to farm infrastructure and management strategies should be employed, led by veterinary herd or flock health planning.
- Ensuring a clinical diagnosis before antimicrobial therapy is applied. For common production diseases, veterinary guidance on diagnostic criteria and a recommended treatment protocol must be detailed in the herd/flock health plan and followed. For mass treatment via oral routes, homogeneity of distribution of the drug and careful calculation of concentration must be applied, in order to ensure a therapeutic dose is delivered.
- Avoidance of prophylactic antimicrobial usage, and a proportionate and situationally appropriate approach to metaphylactic use. Prophylaxis is only permitted under the direct instruction of a veterinary surgeon, and producers must provide suppliers a declaration justifying why prophylaxis is necessary, a management strategy on how to move away from prophylaxis and a stated predicted end date for the period of prophylaxis.
- A system of microbial monitoring, including species involved in disease syndromes and sensitivities to the major antimicrobial classes employed in veterinary medicine. Where prophylaxis has been explicitly recommended by a veterinary surgeon, microbial monitoring should take place at least in an annual or animal lifecycle basis, whichever the less frequent. Antimicrobial therapy should be based on the narrowest spectrum antibiotic available.

- Monitoring quantities of antimicrobial compounds used at an individual farm level, and in the longer term down to the individual or group level.
- Use of WHO priority critically classes only on an individual animal basis and where strong evidence exists that other therapies would have poor efficacy. These classes include 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, long-acting modern macrolides and the currently non-veterinary licensed carbopenams and vancomycin.
- Development of processing techniques and procedures that limit the spread of infectious agents between product (such as *Campylobacter* species in chicken), and prevent contamination of food products with drug residues.