



# T.A.L.K BEFORE YOU TREAT

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm>

and

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/FDAVeterinarianNewsletter/ucm221957.htm>

**T**– Talk to your veterinarian  
**A** - Ask if the drug is FDA approved  
**L**- Look at the label  
**K**- Keep complete treatment records

Correctly medicating animals is sometimes tricky. It requires a proper diagnosis and responsible veterinary treatment. Correctly medicating food-producing animals, such as cows, pigs, and chickens, is especially tricky. These animals provide us with food products like meat, milk, and eggs, and as the saying goes, “We are what we eat.”



## Contact Us

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Food and Drug Administration



When a food-producing animal is treated with a drug, chemical residues of the drug may be present in food products made from that animal. Chemical residues include small amounts of leftover drug, or parts of the drug that are not completely broken down by the animal's body.

Through the FDA's approval process, CVM makes sure the chemical residues that may be present in food products made from treated animals pose little risk to people. By looking at information about the drug, CVM toxicologists determine the "acceptable daily intake," or "ADI." The ADI is the largest amount of the drug that will not harm people if they ingest that amount every day

Selling food products containing levels of chemical residues above the set tolerances is illegal because such levels may harm people who eat that food. Both over-the-counter and prescription

drugs can cause chemical residue levels to be above the set tolerances. To avoid illegal residues and to keep food products safe, CVM reminds veterinarians and animal producers to follow the withdrawal time for every drug they use in food-producing animals. One way to avoid illegal residues is to "**T.A.L.K**" before you treat."

**T** - Talk to your veterinarian. Check with your veterinarian before giving any drug to your animals.

**A** - Ask if the drug is approved by FDA for use in your animals. FDA's approval means the drug is safe and effective when it is used according to the label. FDA's approval also ensures that the drug's strength, quality, and purity are consistent from batch to batch, and that the drug's labeling is appropriate and truthful.

**L** - Look at the label. Know what drug you are giving and the dosage regimen. Be aware of the withdrawal time for the dosage regimen you are using. The dosage regimen includes:

- How much of the drug to give (the dose);
- How often to give it (the frequency);
- How long to give it (the duration); and

- How to give it (the route of administration). Various routes of administration include injecting the drug under the skin, into muscle, or into a vein; giving the drug by mouth; or applying the drug topically to the skin.

**K** - Keep complete treatment records. Good record-keeping will help you avoid illegal chemical residues because you will know:

- Which animals were treated;
- What drug they were treated with;
- How they were treated (the dosage regimen used);
- Why they were treated; and
- When it is safe for food products made from treated animals to enter the food supply.

