

AMTRA

ANIMAL MEDICINES TRAINING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



Ask an SQP – your animal medicines advisor

A professional approach to
animal medicines for
pets, farm animals and equines.



What is an SQP?

A Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) is a professionally qualified and regulated animal medicines advisor, entitled to prescribe and/or supply certain animal medicines under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations. Your SQP is, quite simply, your animal medicines advisor.

What does your SQP need to know?

Whether for livestock, horses or pets, your SQP will need to ask various questions before prescribing or supplying animal medicines. Not only is this a legal requirement, but it also establishes the best course of treatment for your animal.

Your SQP is obliged to ask you, as part of the prescription process, about previous treatments, what the animal had been treated with, and what the treatment was for. They will also need to know about the animal's environment. For example, it is crucial to establish if livestock is kept indoors or out, to understand the regime at an equine yard, or to ascertain whether other pets are also kept at home.

This may seem routine, but the information your SQP gains from asking these simple questions enables delivery of the most effective treatment. Ultimately this could save you a lot of time and more importantly make sure your animal, flock or herd gets the right treatment to maximise their health and profitability.

Why will my SQP not give me what I want?

It is the duty of your animal medicines advisor to ensure that the statutory requirements in respect of the prescription and/or supply of certain veterinary medicines are respected. The SQP is responsible for ensuring this, and if the required information is not obtained, it is not possible for the prescription process to be finalised as the legal requirements will not have been met.

What medicines can an SQP prescribe and/or supply?

SQPs can prescribe and/or supply a range of veterinary medicines under specific distribution classifications.

These can be broken down into three basic categories:

- medicines for farm animals and horses - (POM-VPS)
- medicines for non-food animals and pets - (NFA-VPS)
- general sales list medicines - (AVM-GSL)

Medicines for farm animals or horses, or POM-VPS medicines, are broadly used to reduce or prevent endemic disease in herds, flocks or individual farm animals or horses. Typically, this would include internal and external parasites in farm animals and horses, and some vaccines.

Similarly, NFA-VPS medicines may be routinely used for similar treatments for non-food animals and pets.

An SQP can prescribe and/or supply these medicines when there may be risks for the user, animal, consumer and/or environment, but these risks can be moderated by oral or written advice from the SQP. In all cases, including the supply of general sales list (AVM-GSL) medicines such as shampoos, the SQP will provide practical advice to permit safe and effective usage.

What is the SQP's role?

The role of an SQP reaches further than prescribing and supplying medicines, taking a much more holistic approach to animal medicine issues.

A key part of the SQPs role is to ensure that you, as the animal owner, are provided with full advice on the choice of medicine and its safe and effective use. This is achieved by understanding the individual circumstances of the animal, considering animal health plans and applying best practice in disease and parasite control strategies.

Playing a vital role in keeping the nation's animals healthy, SQPs increase the accessibility to animal medicines, and provide owners with advice on the safe use of these medicines.

SQPs and AMTRA – qualified and professional services.

Every SQPs holds a professional qualification, and AMTRA (the Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority) is appointed by the Defra Secretary of State, under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations, to keep a register of SQPs.

All AMTRA SQPs must pass written exams at Higher Education Level 4, and these exams are based on a syllabus produced by AMTRA and Harper Adams University. Once qualified, AMTRA SQPs are required to undertake AMTRA-accredited continuing professional development (CPD) to remain on the SQP Register, and all AMTRA SQPs must also abide by AMTRA's Code of Practice.

AMTRA is a not-for-profit organisation. It is an independent body, acting under the auspices of the VMD, with no affiliation or commercial links with any company.

Where can you find an SQP?

There are around 7,000 AMTRA SQPs. Working across the farming, equine and companion animal sectors, SQPs are based in pet stores, working in veterinary practices, at suppliers of equine products or working from agricultural merchants and country stores.

Visit www.amtra.org.uk for details.

STORE DETAILS



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1c Windmill Avenue, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9UP
Tel: +44 (0)1359 245801 Fax: +44 (0)1359 242569
Email: info@amtra.org.uk