



FOOD ANIMAL CONCERNS TRUST

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August 28, 2017

STATEMENT ON McDONALD'S GLOBAL VISION ON ANTIBIOTIC REDUCTION

Steven Roach, Food Safety Director, Food Animal Concerns Trust

The world's largest fast food chain McDonald's took another step today to stop the spread of superbugs by pledging to reduce antibiotic use by its chicken suppliers globally. This follows actions taken by the company that began in 2003 to reduce antibiotic use in the chicken sold in its stores in the U.S.

Last September, the company completed its effort around U.S. chicken and no longer sells meat from chickens that had received medically important antibiotics in the U.S. Today, McDonald's set timelines for reducing antibiotic use in the chicken sold in its restaurants outside the U.S. The company committed to eliminating use in chickens of antibiotics that the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated are highest priority for action when used in food animals.

McDonald's also released an updated version of its global vision for antibiotic use that could significantly curtail antibiotic use in food animal globally if adopted by the company's meat suppliers. The vision provides seven criteria for antibiotic use including eliminating any use of antibiotics that WHO considers highest priority for action and prohibiting routine preventive use of medically important antibiotics.

Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) has been in dialog with McDonald's on antibiotics policy since shortly after the coalitions founding in 2000. Keep Antibiotics Working applauds McDonald's for their new commitment on global poultry and will continue to work with the company as it moves forward to implement its global vision for other meats and to fully implement it for chicken.

"This is a step in the right direction on global chicken and the new vision statement gets the policy right. Where McDonald's falls short--and has done so for over a decade--is on beef and pork. We hope today's announcement is just a prelude to global antibiotic policies for all the meat the company sells," said Steven Roach, spokesperson for Keep Antibiotics Working.