

Assessment of consumer perceptions on the use of antimicrobials in production animals in Chile

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© 2018 International Association for Food Protection. All rights reserved. Successful treatment of diseases that sicken food-producing animals requires the use of antimicrobials. However, these drugs could result in serious consequences for human, animal, and environmental health. The emergence of antimicrobial resistance requires better communication with consumers to inform them about the risks associated with the use of these drugs, as well as the benefits gained from their rational use. This work studied consumer perceptions about the use of antimicrobials in the production of animal origin foods by questioning 72 consumers in nine focus groups. The participants were all inhabitants of the Metropolitan Region, Chile, and were assigned to focus groups of 5 to 12 individuals each, according to their age: age groups I, II, and III spanned age ranges of 25 to 35, 36 to 50, and older than 50 years, respectively. Consumers regarded the use of antimicrobials in farm animals as a relevant