

The process for prescribing feed with antibiotics for gamebirds

The process is based on the Veterinary Medicines Regulation (VMR) legislation for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and guidance from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) on providing a prescription for a medicated feed, in particular those containing antibiotic premix.



The birds to be treated must be under the care of a vet who must have made a clinical assessment of them prior to writing the prescription. Careful consideration should be taken regarding the need of prescribing an antibiotic in feed and in reducing the unnecessary risk of resistance. If an animal keeper approaches a mill or distributor (feed supplier) without an antibiotic prescription, they should be told that it cannot be supplied and they need to contact their vet.

1



Birds are examined by a vet who then advises that treatment with antibiotics in feed is required.

2



Vet calculates tonnage of feed¹ needed for **one course of treatment** and contacts the feed supplier to confirm antibiotics in stock, including respective Veterinary Medicine Authorisation (VMA) numbers; type of feed, feed manufacturing site; and minimum order.²

3



Vet writes VMR compliant prescription specific to the diagnosed birds which is submitted to the feed supplier.

4



The feed supplier verifies that the prescription is valid and properly completed, then determines whether they can fulfil the order.

5



Keeper makes contact with the feed supplier to arrange delivery. Treatment must start **within five working days** of the prescription being issued.

6



Medicated feed is made and delivered to the site to be used as specified by the prescription.

7



Keeper records the number and groups of birds treated, the date treatment started and finished and withdrawal period. Records must be kept for five years.

¹ Based on recommended feed consumption.

² At the beginning of the game breeding/rearing release season, feed suppliers can provide vets with relevant information such as details of antibiotics in stock (including VMA numbers), feed manufacturing site(s) and minimum orders.

IMPORTANT ADVICE



Always follow your vet's instructions on medication.



Only a vet can prescribe certain products.



Details of kept birds must be registered.



Good Biosecurity can help prevent issues and diseases.

FEED AND WATER CONSUMPTION

AGE	PHEASANTS			RL PARTRIDGES		
	WEIGHT (g)	Water consp. L per 1000/d	Feed consp. Kg per 1000/ week	WEIGHT (g)	Water consp. L per 1000/d	Feed consp. Kg per 1000/ week
1 wk	50	13	70	18	6	50
2 wk	80	20	120	40	10	65
3 wk	120	30	180	60	15	85
4 wk	200	40	230	100	20	115
5 wk	300	55	280	125	27	150
6 wk	380	60	320	160	30	180
7 wk	450	65	345	210	33	230
8 wk	550	70	370	255	35	250
9 wk	650	75	380	300	37	275
10 wk	750	75	415	340	38	300
11 wk	875	80	460	380	40	300
12 wk	900	85	470	400	50	300
Adult	1300	100	520	500	60	300
Adult in lay	1300	150	520	500	100	300

Trusted Game - Gamebird Health and Welfare Scheme