

ANNEX II

ACAF/99/13

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

Second Meeting of ACAF 1 December 1999 – agenda item 3

Matters Arising – Homeopathic/Herbal Additives

Secretariat November 1999

Homeopathic/Herbal Additives

Introduction

1. At the first meeting of ACAF on 24 September members discussed the paper ACAF/99/3, Future Topics for ACAF to Consider. It was agreed that the list of topics given in the paper should be amended to include additional subjects suggested at the meeting and homeopathic/herbal additives was identified. During discussion on this suggestion, the potential overlap in responsibility between ACAF and the Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) was highlighted and it was agreed that the Secretariat would liaise with the VPC Secretariat to clarify this. This paper aims to clarify responsibility for homeopathic/herbal additives.

The Veterinary Products Committee's Terms of Reference

2. The VPC was established in 1970 under section 4 of the Medicines Act 1968 to give advice with respect to safety, quality and efficacy in relation to the veterinary use of any substance or article (not being an instrument, apparatus or appliance) to which any provision of the Medicines Act is applicable. The VPC also promotes the collection of information relating to suspected adverse reactions for the purpose of enabling such advice to be given. These terms of reference have been extended to include veterinary medicinal products to which relevant EC legislation applies and which come before the Committee for consideration.

Homeopathic Additives

3. The VPC considers applications for marketing authorisations (under the Marketing Authorisation Regulations) for veterinary medicines, **including homeopathic products**, for placing on the market after 31 March 1997 that are either:

- intended for use in food producing animals; or
- make therapeutic claims.

4. However, for veterinary homeopathic products placed on the market after 31 March 1997 and intended for use in non-food producing animals, without therapeutic indications, there is a simplified registration scheme and these would not normally be seen by the VPC.

Herbs and Herbal Additives

5. Herbal products presented as treating or preventing disease in animals, or capable of restoring, correcting or modifying a physiological function in an animal, would also require a marketing authorisation under the Marketing

Authorisation Regulations. Any such application would be considered by the VPC. However any of these products not linked to such claims would either require EC approval as a feed additive or be regarded as a feed ingredient and be beyond any assessment mechanism. The definition of feed additives under EC Directive 70/524/EEC is “ substances....which, when incorporated in feedingstuffs, are likely to affect their characteristics or livestock production”. A new definition will be in place shortly, under Directive 96/51/EC. This is as follows:

“substances or preparations used in animal nutrition in order to:

- affect favourably the characteristics of feed materials or of compound feedingstuffs or of animal products; or
- satisfy the nutritional needs of animals or improve animal production, in particular by affecting the gastro-intestinal flora or the digestibility of feedingstuffs; or
- introduce into nutrition elements conducive to attaining particular nutritional objectives or to meeting the specific nutritional needs of animals at a particular time; or
- prevent or reduce the harmful effects caused by animal secretions or improve the animal environment.

Pet Food

6. The VPC would not consider an herbal or homeopathic product that was intended as an additive in a pet food product, nor are there any plans for it to do so in the future. It does consider food fed to horses. The definition of feed additives, indicated above, does embrace substances used in pet food.

Conclusion

7. ACAF could consider herbs and herbal additives which do not make any of the claims outlined in paragraph 5.

**ACAF Secretariat
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