

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

A. Poultry Meat (Chicken and Duck)

Q1. Is it true that the reason our chicken grow so fast and meaty is because they are injected with hormones?

A1. It is not true at all. Injecting hormones was practised back in the 1970's and by the 1980's the use of growth hormones are not permitted any more in livestock. If you happen to see a farmer injecting 'milky coloured oil' at the neck, it is not a hormone but a vaccine is being inoculated. Broiler chickens grow faster now mainly due to genetic improvement and the use of well formulated feed.

Q2. There are some commercial chicken that claimed they are free of antibiotics, does it mean other non commercial chicken used a lot of antibiotics?

A2. The use of antibiotics is strictly regulated by the Poison's Act 1952. They are only used therapeutically on chickens affected by specific diseases and must undergo a withdrawal period before being sold. Both commercial and non commercial chicken are not allowed to use antibiotics unnecessarily

Q3. Is our market poultry meat free from antibiotic residue?

A3. Generally speaking poultry meats sold in the markets are free from antibiotics. There are government authorities that monitor the situation regularly. The poultry industry as a whole is striving to move away from antibiotics use as growth promoters. They are only used therapeutically under veterinary supervision.

Q4. What is the process involved in raising village chickens? Is it free from any drug use?

A4. Similar as raising commercial chickens, only longer period of rearing. The use of drug if needed when the chickens fall sick. If consumer buy myorganic certified chicken, they are free from drug use.

Q5. People often look down on the "injected chicken" (ayam suntik) to make it bigger. Can you explain it?

A5. The term "injected chicken" is used by the general public to describe injected poultry/ containing antibiotics, the use of various vaccines or hormone injection.

The oblique perception of the injected chicken may be due to the fact that the public does not know the purpose and limitations of the antibiotic requirement in livestock. People/ consumers need to understand that antibiotics are needed in the treatment of diseased livestock. Antibiotic residues occur due to the use of antibiotics not following the withdrawal period. The authority is regularly monitoring chicken meat at the processing plant. People need to understand that antibiotics is needed to treat a sick chicken but with the prescription by registered veterinarian.

Prescribing medicines or antibiotics is to protect the health of animals, reduce the suffering of ill animals, sustainability of animal resources and public health. Veterinarians have an ongoing responsibility for preventing illness, treating the injured and sick animals as well as preventing humans from being infected with infectious diseases and animals. To that end, animals still require prudent/ responsible use of antibiotics.

Poultry Egg (Chicken and egg)

Q1. What harm will occur from long term consumption of eggs with antibiotic residues?

A1. Chicken eggs produced locally are under close supervision of the Department of Veterinary Services. No abuse of antibiotic is allowed. There is no known negative health effect from consuming eggs with antibiotic residues. The fear is the residues will cause bacteria in the body to develop resistance to the antibiotics concerned.

Q2. How do we know whether the eggs we bought from the market is free from antibiotics residue?

A2. The DVS is monitoring regularly the eggs from hazard contamination from drug residue and microbes. Farms that found to have drug residue in their animal products will have their operating license suspended until rectification have been conducted.

Q3. Are the eggs we buy from the market or vendor every week safe to consume?

A3. The eggs purchased from the market or vendors are safe to be consumed as long as they are fresh and appears normal.

Pork

Q1. Are pigs being given antibiotics that are used for treating humans? If so what are the effects on pork eaters?

A1. Prudent use of antibiotic to treat only sick animals is the key principle. Safe pork comes from healthy animal. With proper antibiotic withdrawal period, the antibiotic residue is minimal, and it won't create human health problems.

Q2. Is organic pork in the market really organic? How can consumers be sure?

A2. Organic means the animals are not given any form of chemical as a treatment. They are only given herbal treatment

General Questions

Q1. Did DVS enforce restrictions on the use of antibiotics in livestock?

A1. No, DVS only banned the usage of antibiotic especially the critically important antibiotic for human to be used as agent growth promoter and for prophylaxis. DVS is allowing the usage of antibiotic for treatment and metaphylaxis as to ensure the health and welfare of animals are well taken cared.

