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Keep Antibiotics Working Commends Walmart for New Antibiotics Policy, but Cautions on Prevention Uses

Washington, DC – In response to consumer demand, today Walmart, the U.S.' largest grocery chain, [announced a new animal welfare policy](#). The policy includes a commitment to the humane treatment of animals and the adoption of a more robust antibiotics policy which asks suppliers to: adopt judicious use policies promoted by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), adopt and implement FDA's Voluntary Guidance for Industry #209, including eliminating growth promotion uses of medically important antibiotics, and promote transparency "by providing a report on antibiotics management to Walmart and publicly report antibiotic use on an annual basis."

Susan Vaughn Grooters, policy analyst for Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW), a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, animal welfare, and other advocacy groups, issued the following statement in response:

"In seeking transparency from their suppliers, Walmart is responding to consumer demand for knowledge in how their food is produced. This important step forward will position Walmart to analyze the antibiotic use practices and whether medically important antibiotics are used and for what purposes.

That said, while transparency is definitely needed, continued routine use of antibiotics for disease prevention does not meet consumer expectations. Routine use, whether it be for growth promotion or disease prevention, creates the same public health risk, and should thus be explicitly restricted in Walmart's policy."

If you'd like to connect with members of the Keep Antibiotics Working coalition for further comment, please contact Katie Andriulli at kandriulli@mrss.com or (917) 438-4605.

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Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) is a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, humane, and other advocacy groups with more than 11 million supporters. Learn more at www.keepantibioticsworking.com.