



Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians /  
Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Bovins  
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Daniel Chaput, Director General  
Veterinary Drugs Directorate  
Health Products and Food Branch  
Ground Floor, Suite 14  
Holland Cross Complex  
11 Holland Avenue  
Postal Locator 3000A  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Dr. Chaput:

The Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (CABV) would like to express our continued concern regarding the circumstances our members currently must deal with when prescribing dexamethasone sodium phosphate to cattle for treatment. Dexamethasone products in Canada were approved for use in food animals many years ago without withdrawal recommendations on their labels. Dexamethasone is currently labeled for use in beef and dairy cattle in Canada, however product labeling does not list an established meat or milk withdrawal time. This lack of a label withdrawal time is often interpreted by veterinary practitioners as a “zero day” withdrawal, however, there is currently no established minimum residue limit (MRL) for cattle tissues or milk.

This situation places cattle veterinarians in a very awkward circumstance in which they may prescribe the use of an approved product at the label dosage for a client’s animal or animals within the veterinary patient client relationship. However, since no MRL or withdrawal time has been established, the client may be penalized for residues of this product by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency despite following label directions.

A similar situation exists for flumethasone products as well, although there is a label recommendation for a 4 day meat withdrawal time, there is no recommendation for a milk withdrawal time and there are no Canadian MRL’s for meat or milk for this product as well.

The members of our Association rely on the use of these products and are aware that consumers are increasingly demanding a safe food supply. Food animal veterinarians have a very important role in this process and we take this responsibility seriously. The current

scenario makes it very difficult for veterinarians to utilize these important medications responsibly.

We would urgently request that Health Canada take steps to establish a Minimum Residue Limit for dexamethasone and flumethasone as soon as possible. Once an MRL is established, withdrawal times can then be established which would be carefully adhered to by both veterinarians and producers who use these important products.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melodie Chan".

Melodie Chan  
President, CABV/ACVB

cc The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.  
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