

News in brief

No more missed doses - new long acting antibiotic

How often has a client asked you for the “magic injection?” You know the one – the jab that cures all ills, in one shot and preferably for free. Well that magic injection, with perhaps some of these attributes, could be closer than ever.

According to Pfizer Animal Health, its new cephalosporin Convenia is “a product to make previous products obsolete.” Convenia, like other third generation cephalosporins, has an extended spectrum of activity against selected Gram negatives, Gram positives and anaerobes. However, this particular drug, claims the manufacturers, has a unique pharmacology which allows the active molecule, cefovecin, to bind to plasma proteins and create a reservoir of the drug within the animal’s body. Carrie Passmore, Technical Manager with Pfizer Animal Health, said: “The drug has an exceptionally long half life – 5.5 days in the dog and 6.9 in the cat. It is essentially the equivalent of a continuous infusion of antibiotics for up to 14 days.”

Compliance was the buzzword at the launch, held last month at Pfizer’s Paris headquarters. Dr Jill Maddison, the Director of Professional Development at the Royal Veterinary College, presented research-based evidence on veterinary compliance i.e., how well pet owners followed vet’s instructions in medicating the animal. There is, she said, a “huge discrepancy between what clients will claim they do and what is actually done.” Research, she said, implies that a third or less owners medicate their animals at the correct time.

Stefan Jahnecke, Associate Director of Companion Animal Marketing at Pfizer Animal Health, is confident that the new antibiotic, given via



a single subcutaneous injection, will be able to improve this situation. He says that Convenia represents “no more missed doses” and “an assured course of treatment.” Currently, the drug has been licensed for skin, soft tissue and urinary infections in cats and dogs over eight weeks of age, but Pfizer is looking at its applications in other systems.

The drug has undergone *in vivo* testing across Europe, the US and Japan and has shown promising efficacy and safety profiles. These studies were, according to Pfizer, among the first double masking trials used in animal health. In 700 dogs and 400 cats, said Stefan Jahnecke, there have been no clinically significant adverse effects attributable to the drug.

Convenia, according to Pfizer sources, is just the tip of the veterinary product iceberg. The pharmaceutical company said that it was looking forward to launching several other new products over the next 12 to 18 months which represent the culmination of years of research and development. \$270 million was spent by Pfizer Animal Health on R&D in 2005 alone.

Latest arrival at Intervet Ireland

Dr William Enright has been hired by Intervet Ireland, completing the company’s new companion animal (small animal & equine) business unit. Dr Enright, who started in early October as Business Unit Marketing Manager, is no stranger to Intervet - he has worked at Intervet International, the Netherlands, for the last 11 years. There he worked as a Senior Project Leader in R&D and later as the International Marketing Manager for the Aquatic Animal Health Division.



Prior to his career in Intervet, William managed Proteus Research Ireland, a joint venture biotech company involving the Irish Equine Centre. Before that, he was a Senior Research Scientist at Teagasc’s Grange Research Centre. William has also achieved Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in agricultural science at UCD, a PhD at Michigan State University and has authored over 250 scientific publications.

Cork triumph in Marbocyl Cup

Cork vets claimed the top prizes at Vétuquinol’s annual golfing event, the Marbocyl Cup Final, which took place at Mount Juliet, Co. Kilkenny on October 5. Both the overall winner, Dave McLoughlin, and the ladies prize winner, Ursula Dolan, were from County Cork. Second place went to David Strang, Co. Antrim, nearest pin was won by Paul Fagan, Co. Armagh, with the longest drive, and third place overall, going to Ciaran Cunningham, Co. Monaghan.

The prizes were presented at a meal which followed the golf, by Vétuquinol representatives Pdraig Gardiner, Stewart Case and Hugh Gibson.



The Marbocyl Cup winners collect their prizes from Vétuquinol’s Hugh Gibson (left to right): Paul Fagan, Ursula Dolan, Hugh Gibson, Dave McLoughlin, Ciaran Cunningham and David Strang.