

PRESCRIPTION

LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY, UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA



VETERINARY SERVICES IN SAFEGUARDING ONE HEALTH

*Connecting Animal Health, Food Safety
and Public Protection in Malaysia*

YBhg. Datuk Dr. Mohd Noor Hisham bin Mohd Haron

*Director-General, Department of Veterinary Services
Malaysia | President, Malaysian Veterinary Council*

Editorial: Salleh bin Sheikh Ibrahim

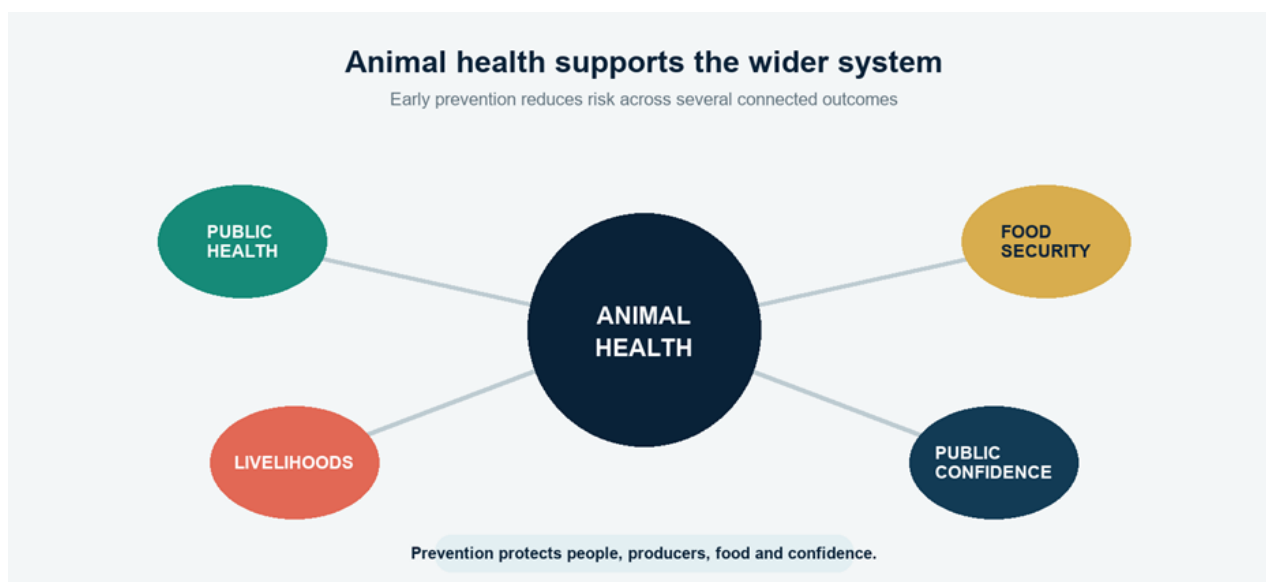
*Research Officer, Department of Veterinary Services
Malaysia*

What does a pig farm in Negeri Sembilan have to do with the antibiotic you take for a chest infection in Kuala Lumpur? The answer lies in the connections between animal health, food safety, antimicrobial stewardship and environmental integrity. These connections are at the heart of One Health and are part of the work carried out by Malaysia's Department of Veterinary Services (DVS).

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Veterinary Services In Safeguarding One Health: Connecting Animal Health, Food Safety and Public Protection in Malaysia
- Three Attempts, One Opportunity: My Journey Towards Securing the Sumitomo Foundation Research Grant
- Bridging Academia And Industry: Pioneering The Next Generation Of Anti-Aging Serums
- Faculty of Pharmacy Participates in the Launch of "Me. NO PAUSE" Women's Health Initiative
- Pioneering Veterinary Pharmacy in Malaysia: UiTM Hosts the 1st National Conference on Veterinary Pharmacy
- Azelis-UiTM Collaborative Industry Programme
- Network Pharmacology: Mapping the Future of Multi-Target Drug Discovery
- EcoSmartPlaydough
- From Lab to Land: The Second Series
- Empowering Undergraduate Students with Research Skills Through the Basic SPSS Workshop 2026
- Pharmacy KIK Spotlight: NatureRx and Far-Max Triumph

Animal health forms part of the country's wider system for public health, food security, livelihoods and public confidence. Veterinary pharmacy contributes to this system by supporting the quality, appropriate use and safe management of medicines used in animals. Decisions made at each stage of medicine usage can influence animal health, food production and the wider community.



Nipah virus outbreak

Malaysia's experience with the Nipah virus outbreak between 1998 and 1999 remains an important lesson. An unusual cluster of encephalitis among pig farmers became a national public-health emergency. The outbreak resulted in 283 human cases and 109 fatalities, while more than 1.1 million pigs were culled. The economic damage was estimated at USD 582 million. Early misdiagnosis and the movement of infected pigs between farms delayed recognition and contributed to the spread. The eventual identification of fruit bats as the reservoir host highlighted the links between wildlife, livestock and human communities.

Strengthening Preparedness

The outbreak demonstrated the value of timely diagnosis, movement control, farm biosecurity and cooperation across institutions. These lessons continue to inform Malaysia's preparedness. As the Competent Veterinary Authority within the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) framework, DVS works across prevention, surveillance, diagnosis, regulation, safe trade and emergency response.

Much of this work takes place beyond public view, yet a farmer's report, a laboratory finding or an inspection may prevent a local concern from becoming a wider crisis.

Prevention & Early Detection	Diagnostic & Regulatory Oversight	Safe Trade	Emergency Response	International Cooperation
------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------	--------------------	---------------------------

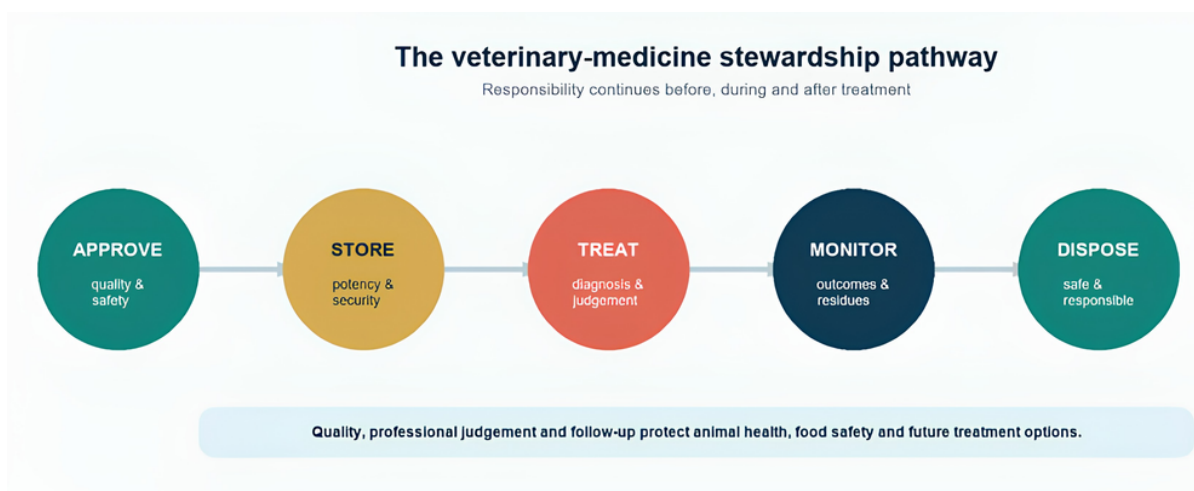
DVS Roles

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

The same connected approach applies to veterinary medicines. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is placing increasing pressure on health systems worldwide, including Malaysia. A Malaysian study of Ministry of Health hospitals found that AMR cases were associated with substantial treatment costs and prolonged hospital stays. Publicly reported projections have estimated up to 87,000 AMR-related deaths in Malaysia between 2020 and 2030 without effective intervention. A recent Malaysian study also reported that up to 68.4 per cent of antibiotic prescriptions for upper respiratory tract infections were unnecessary. These figures underline the importance of responsible use, while the mortality estimate should be understood as a modelled projection.

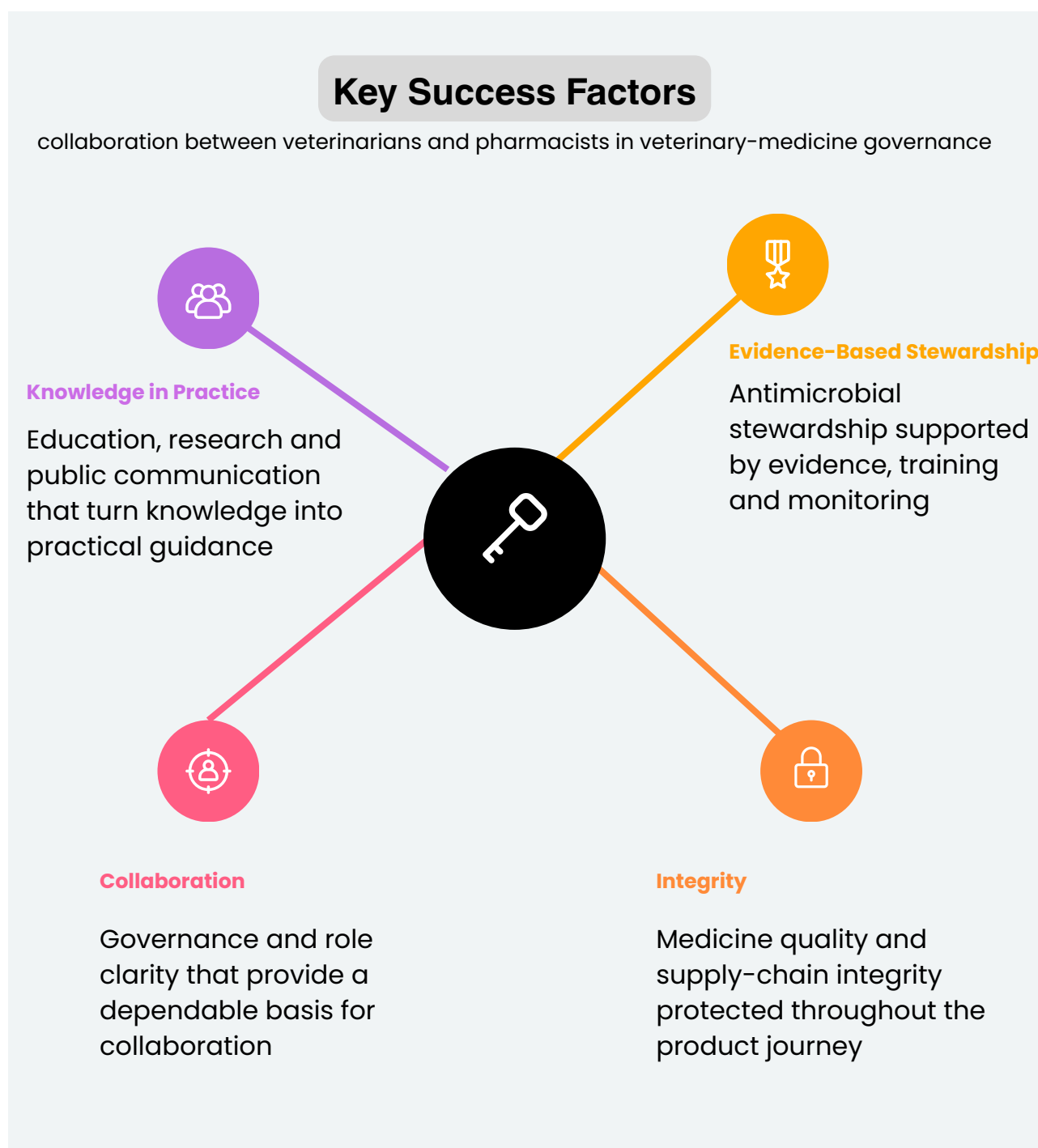
Veterinarians – pharmacists

It is high time to strengthen genuine collaboration between veterinarians and pharmacists in veterinary-medicine governance. Veterinarians can provide clinical judgement, diagnosis and animal-health planning. Pharmacists can contribute their expertise in medicine quality, formulation, storage, supply integrity, pharmacovigilance and safe disposal. When these contributions are connected through clear responsibilities and appropriate referral, they strengthen the medicine stewardship chain from registration and supply to clinical use, monitoring and final disposal.



Together, Moving Forward

Four priorities will help move this work forward: antimicrobial stewardship supported by evidence, training and monitoring; medicine quality and supply-chain integrity protected throughout the product journey; governance and role clarity that provide a dependable basis for collaboration; and education, research and public communication that turn knowledge into practical guidance. Together, these priorities support healthier animals, safer food, stronger public confidence and more resilient One Health outcomes for Malaysia.





QUIZ

1

Q Which three areas are brought together under the One Health approach?

A Human health, animal health and environmental health.

2

Q What were two major consequences of Malaysia's Nipah outbreak mentioned in the article?

A The outbreak resulted in 283 human cases and 109 fatalities, while more than 1.1 million pigs were culled.

3

Q Which contribution is most closely associated with pharmacists in veterinary-medicine governance?

- (A) Medicine quality, storage and pharmacovigilance
- (B) Herd diagnosis and disease control
- (C) Movement control during outbreaks

A (A) Medicine quality, storage and pharmacovigilance.



4

Q Name one of the four priorities identified for strengthening veterinary-medicine governance

A Antimicrobial stewardship; medicine quality and supply-chain integrity; governance and role clarity; or education, research and public communication.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

YBhg. Datuk Dr. Mohd Noor Hisham bin Mohd Haron is the Director-General of Veterinary Services Malaysia and President of the Malaysian Veterinary Council. He leads national efforts to safeguard animal health and welfare, veterinary public health, food security and preparedness through the Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia.

