



POSITION STATEMENT

ELDU IS A USEFUL TOOL TO SUPPORT ANIMAL HEALTH, BUT IT SHOULD ONLY BE PERFORMED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND WITHIN THE CONFINES OF A VALID VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

August 21, 2018

Extra-Label Drug Use (ELDU), also known as “off-label use”, is the application of a drug in any manner that is different from the label directions or package insert of a Health Canada or Canadian Food Inspection Agency approved product. Without the ability to use medications in an extra-label manner, a veterinarian’s ability to treat minor animal species and uncommon diseases in our major animal species would be restricted. ELDU should only be practiced by a licensed veterinarian, or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

ELDU takes on many formats and some of the more common examples include:

- application in species not listed on a product’s label (e.g. cattle product used in sheep) or using a product labeled for humans;
- veterinary prescribing and dispensing dosages over or under those recommended on the label;
- veterinary prescribing and dispensing of compounded products; and
- administering an animal health product in a different route than indicated on the label and/or for the treatment for a condition not listed on a label (e.g. oral pneumonia product used topically for a skin infection).

CAHI and its members recognize that we do not have labeled animal health products available to treat all diseases and animal species that Canadian veterinarians may encounter. In these cases ELDU is warranted, provided that there is sound scientific rationale for its use. Due to the potential risk of adverse reactions, ELDU should only be performed under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian and within the confines of a valid [Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship](#).

We are supportive of the [Canadian gFARAD \(Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database\)](#) which provides the veterinary profession which collects, assesses and shares multi-national educational and scientific drug residue avoidance information with the veterinary community. We are dedicated to working with our federal regulators to support of the availability of safe and effective animal health products.

CAHI’s members are committed to providing veterinarians, when requested, with all available scientific information pertaining to a specific product to enable veterinarians and animal owners to assess the risks and benefits of ELDU on behalf of their clients. Guidelines for CAHI’s member companies on the release of this information are included in Appendix VI of our [Code of Marketing Practice](#).