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**New Veterinary Drug Milestone Highlights Regulatory Cooperation between U.S. and Canada**

March 29, 2016 -- The Animal Health Institute and the Canadian Animal Health Institute are excited to announce a new milestone in regulatory cooperation between the U.S. and Canada. In early March, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and Canada's Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) jointly approved a new food animal product for use in dairy cattle. The new product is approved to reduce incidence of mastitis and is the first food animal product to be approved through the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) process to be made available in both countries at the same time (two companion animal products were approved prior to the food animal product approval).

The RCC process dates back to 2011 when President Obama and former Prime Minister Harper launched the joint program. The RCC's goal is to facilitate closer regulatory cooperation between the two countries and enhance economic competitiveness by aligning regulatory systems where appropriate while maintaining high levels of protection for health, safety and the environment.

Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) President Jean Szkotnicki said, "Simultaneous review and approval of new animal health products through the RCC process helps to reduce the costs to both U.S. and Canadian governments and industries in bringing products to market." As Canada is only 2.5% of the global animal health market, the RCC initiative helps to ensure Canadian veterinarians and animal owners have access to new medicines that help keep animals healthy at the same time as a larger market like the U.S.

U.S. and Canada have similarly framed legislation and regulation to ensure high standards of safety, efficacy and manufacturing for animal drugs. "The RCC process is leading a new pathway for countries to reduce duplicative procedures and manage submission review costs," according to Alexander S. Mathews, President and CEO of the Animal Health Institute (AHI). "Expansion of the RCC process to include other countries would lead to greater regulatory convergence with regulators from countries working together to gain confidence in each other's requirements for new animal drugs."

AHI and CAHI are the trade associations representing the manufacturers and distributors of animal health markets in the U.S. and Canada, respectively. Member companies help to ensure the health of our pets and companion animals as well as contributing to safe food.