# VetNOW



### **Connected Care for Food Production Animals**

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# **VETNOW:** WHO WE ARE

#### **Business Overview**

- Founded in 2018, VetNOW is medical and technological platform focused on the **global digital transformation of veterinary healthcare**.
- The business was created in response to market needs for greater access to animal medical care in both the companion and food animal industries.
- Our platform facilitates **global healthcare access** that transcends the traditional barriers of location, logistics and country economic status

#### **Our Mission**

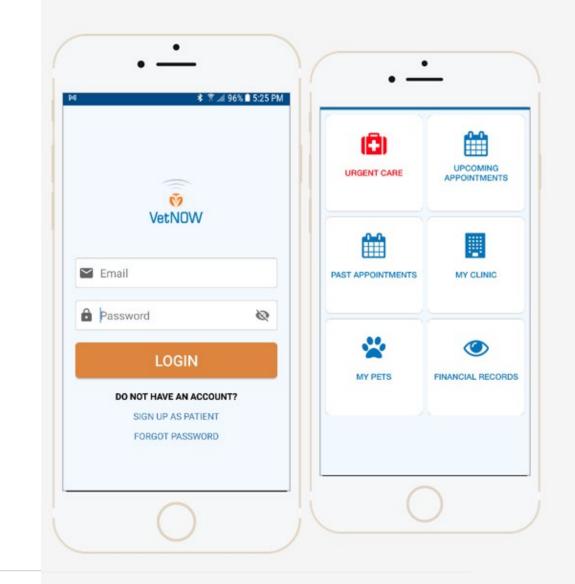
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To improve the health of animals worldwide and to support the people that care for them through technology



### **ANIMAL TELEHEALTH:** THE BASICS

- Veterinary TeleHealth applications are similar to those in human medicine, *however* there are specific concerns that must be acknowledged and addressed when entering the animal health field.
- Covid-19 has had a profound effect on the animal health industry and its impact is expected to serve as an *accelerant and catalyst to broader telehealth adoption.*





# **ANIMAL TELEHEALTH:** THE BASICS

### History

- Veterinary Telehealth is a relatively new field
- Informal telehealth practices have been in use for decades

### **Regulatory Compliance**

- HIPAA, HL7, Privacy Concerns
- VCPR (Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship)

### **Telehealth in Food Animal Practice**

- Economic considerations
- Dynamic and distinct workflows
- Balancing individual versus population medicine

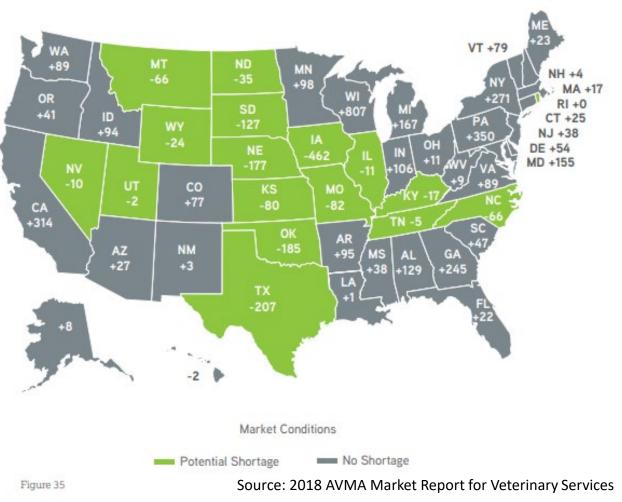




### FOOD ANIMAL VET CHALLENGES ACCESSABILTY AND AVAILABILITY

- 1 Rural Vet Shortages
- 2 Distance and Weather
- 3 Biosecurity and Safety
  - COVID-19 Impact





By **removing access barriers** to general and specialist talent, Telemedicine expands animal healthcare possibilities



### FOOD ANIMAL VET CHALLENGES ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Limited Veterinary access is a problem for antimicrobial resistance

#### Why are Antibiotics Used?

- Animal Health
- Animal Welfare
- Food Safety
- Public Health

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**Key Points** 

- Whenever antibiotics are used, there is potential for resistance to develop
- In order to justify usage, there must be some benefit that outweighs this risk
- Veterinarians have a duty to ensure that when antibiotics are used, it is done responsibly



# **ANTIBIOTIC USE**

Judicious Antibiotic Use – All Species

#### **Ensure Antibiotic is:**

- Needed for condition
- Appropriate for condition

#### Given in Correct:

- Dose
- Frequency
- Duration
- Delivery Method

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# **ANTIBIOTIC USE**

Decisions to use antibiotics are not taken lightly

- All antibiotics are cheap if they are effective
- All antibiotics are expensive if they don't work or are not needed
- When farm access is limited, decisions must be made with incomplete information
- Misinformed decisions have lasting consequences for:
  - Animal health
  - Finances
  - Overall antibiotic usage
- A single treatment decision can have a significant impact
- Opportunity for stewardship research and education leveraged dramatically

#### **How Many Meals Come from One Pig?**









Each market hog represents... 371 servings of pork





















# **ANTIBIOTIC USE**

### **KEY POINT**

Telemedicine supports judicious antibiotic usage

- Telemedicine can bridge gaps in veterinary accessibility and availability
- Helps address regional veterinary disparities
- Live video and pictures help to provide a more complete clinical picture
- Provides documentation of veterinary-producer interactions
- Justify instances where antibiotics are needed





# **CLOSING THOUGHTS**

#### **Benefits for Telemedicine**

- Availability and accessibility of veterinarians is a growing problem in food animal practice
- Telemedicine helps veterinarians to be better informed when making decisions about antibiotic usage
- Secure and official medical records improve documentation, and provide justification for antibiotic usage
- Increased interaction results in improved animal health outcomes, resulting in:
  - Overall reduction in antibiotic uses
  - More precise targeting for antibiotics when they are needed

#### **Opportunities for Progress**

- Improved connectivity in rural areas
- Harmonization of telemedicine with existing medical databases and other technical platforms used in veterinary medicine
- Define appropriate data metrics and methods for collection
- Validation and acceptance of telemedicine as an effective conduit to provide veterinary services

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