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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

AN EXCELLENT BOOK

Toxicological Evaluation of Certain Veterinary Drug Residues in Food. WHO Food Additives Series 49. Prepared by 58th meeting of Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JFCFA). Published under IPCS (International Programme on Chemical Safety)
World Health Organization, Avenue Appia 20, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, Publication Date 2002, vi + 86 pages, ISBN 92 4 166049 X: NLM Classification WA 712: Price: US $22.50

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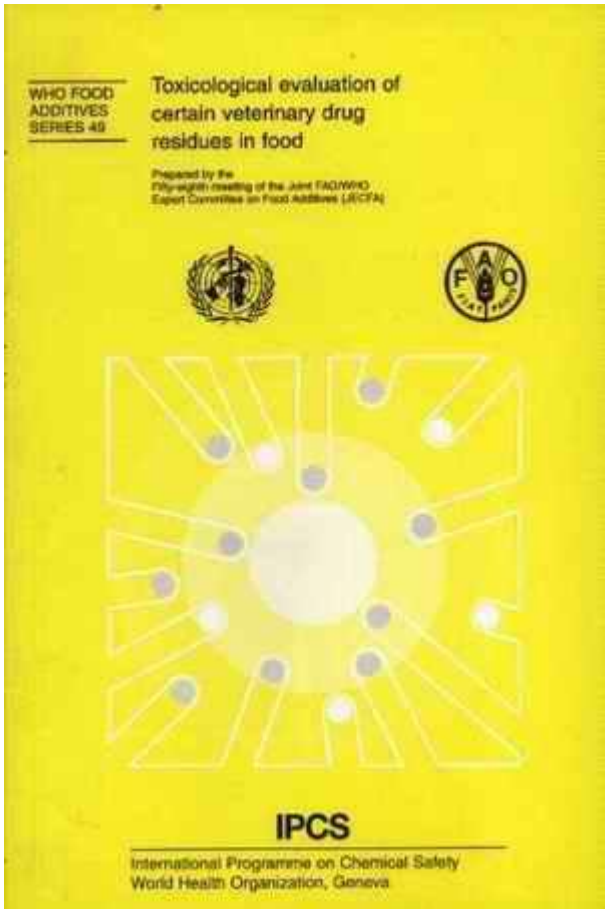

Animals are god gifted social creatures whose health is coequally important as that of human beings. They not only serve as an important component of our sources of nutrition but also role models for testing of drugs for the safety evaluation. Thus, it is essential to establish a scientific basis of the veterinary drugs for its use in animals and also its associated risk to them as well as humans.

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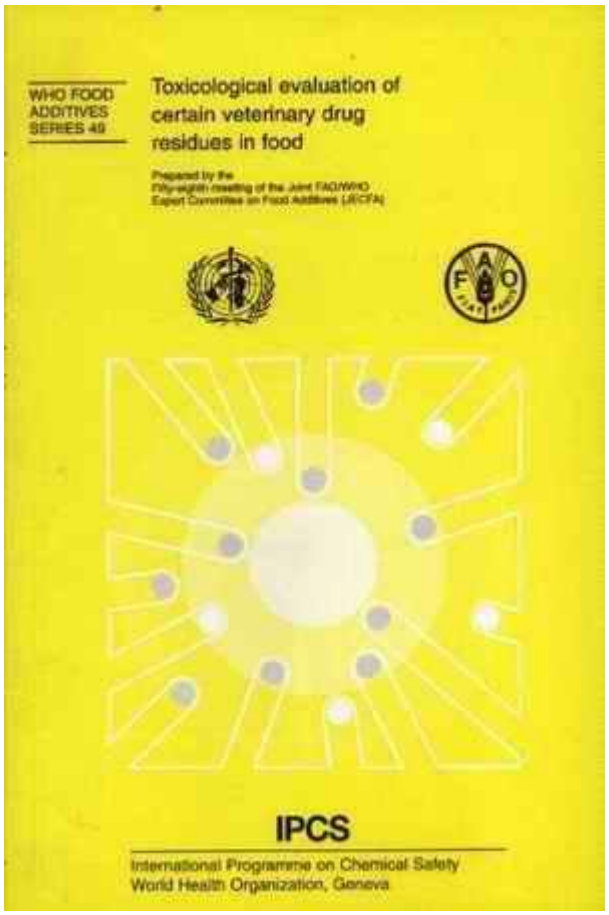
IPCS deals with one of these stated objectives assessing the risk to health from exposure to a particular chemical entity, persistent reviewing of the data, promotion of chemical safety and technical assistance for sound management of this.

This book presents the toxicological monographs prepared by 58th meeting of joint FAO/WHO, this included two antihelminths -doramectin & tiabendazoles and antimicrobial agent -Cefuroxime. The monographs were prepared on the basis of working papers reviewed by the committee.

The antihelminth agent Doramectin was evaluated earlier in 45th meeting and an additional safety factor was assigned to it. In this series it was rechecked for the additional risk factor. Its toxicity was linked to expression of genetic variation in expression of P Glycoproteins. This drug is indicated for the treatment of onchocerciasis in Africa & Latin America, no neurotoxicity was observed in humans and was found to be safe as a single dose in pregnancy. On these findings this additional risk factor was removed.

The other congener discussed is tiabendazole which is a broad spectrum antihelminth and is also used as a fungicide in plant protection. On analysis of the recent linked data on toxicology, this drug raised concern for safety. Hence it was decided to define and establish a acute reference dose (acute RfD)for this drug. The committee reviewed toxic effects of this drug on various system for acute toxicity and developmental toxicity which were considered relevant for establishing acute RfD.



...The information [in this book] is useful for the animal handlers in animal house, manufactures of veterinary drugs, food authorities dealing with contamination of food residues, industrial testing laboratories, toxicological labs and food regulatories. ...

Cefuroxime, a broad spectrum cephalosporin with antibacterial activity used for the treatment of mastitis in cattle was assessed. This was evaluated for the first time. A complete biological information on the pharmacokinetic aspect, biotransformation and toxicity studies in various species including man was submitted and assessed. It Was proposed that a significant transformation occurs only in cattle and not in other laboratory animals or man. Milk residues were analysed and it proved no threat on safety.

This is a small book limited only to two drugs but gives a whole lot of information on them. At the same time it prattles that the assessment of veterinary drugs is an important concealed horizon which should be looked upon.

This information is useful for the animal handlers in animal house, manufactures of veterinary drugs, food authorities dealing with contamination of food residues, industrial testing laboratories, toxicological labs and food regulatories.

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