








## Estimated weight at time of treatment

When estimating the average weights at time of treatment the EMA takes into account that the majority of antibiotics are used in young animals. Therefore, weight used is likely to be below final weight at slaughter.



Veterinary  
Medicines  
Directorate

	Slaughter cows	425 kg
	Slaughter heifers	200 kg
	Slaughter bullocks and bulls	425 kg
	Slaughter calves & young cattle	140 kg
	Imported/exported cattle for slaughter	425 kg
	Imported/exported for fattening	140 kg
	Livestock dairy cows	425 kg
	Slaughter pigs	65 kg
	Imported/exported pigs for slaughter	65 kg
	Imported/exported pigs for fattening	25 kg
	Livestock sows	240 kg
	Slaughter broilers	1 kg
	Slaughter turkeys	6.5 kg
	Imported/exported poultry for slaughter	1 kg
	Slaughter sheep & goats	20 kg
	Imported/exported sheep & goats for slaughter	20 kg
	Livestock sheep	75 kg
	Living horses	400 kg
	Slaughtered fish based on liveweight	-- kg
	Slaughter rabbits	1.4 kg

# Understanding the Population Correction Unit used to calculate antibiotic use in food- producing animals.

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## What is the PCU?

The Population Correction Unit (PCU) is a theoretical unit of measurement developed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 2009 and adopted across Europe. It takes into account a country's animal population over a year, along with the estimated weight of each particular species at the time of treatment with antibiotics. Although it is an estimation it does enable year-on-year comparisons to be made and trends to be seen.



### What is the mg figure?

The active ingredient weight in milligrams (mg) of all antibiotic products sold in the UK (calculated from product data sheets).



Sales data are reported as quantity of active ingredient sold in a calendar year and converted to mg



Products for horses are included as they are considered by the EMA to be a food-producing species



Topical presentations are removed as their contribution to total amount is minimal



Tablets are removed as they are used primarily in companion animals



### What is the PCU figure?

The standardised average weight in kilograms (kg) of all animals at time of treatment multiplied by the number of animals based on national statistics (live and/or slaughter).



Data on national statistics are used for each calendar year



The EMA set a standardised estimated weight at time of treatment for each species



Adjustments are made to take into account animals exported to, and imported from, other European countries



Companion animals are not included in the calculation

### What calculation is used?

$$\text{xx mg} \text{ divided by } \text{xx kg} = \text{xx mg/PCU}$$

1 PCU = 1 kg. For example a 50 mg/PCU figure for food producing animals would mean that on average, and over the course of a year, 50 mg of antibiotic active ingredient was used for every kg of bodyweight at time of treatment.