



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Substandard and Falsified Veterinary Products Workshop

4 - 6 March 2025. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



The
Fleming
Fund

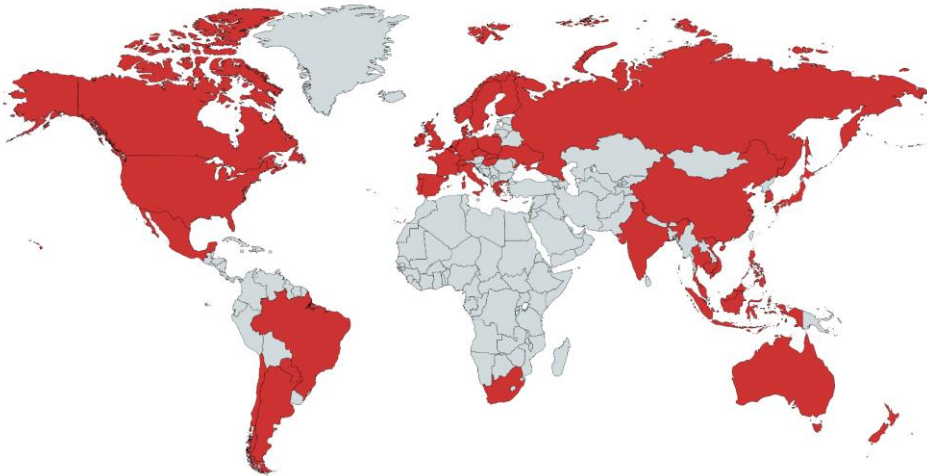


Industry's perspective

Liezl Kock – HealthforAnimals Africa Coordinator

Presence

26 Regional & National Associations
Working in ~40 countries



Parasite control products, vaccines, antibiotics, diagnostics, digital products, genetics, other (topics, dental, etc)

All companies and associations members = about 85% + of global market

Ten Largest Animal Health Companies
Working in 100+ countries





What we know

- Criminal activity in all countries - some more, some less
- Different levels of counter-activity (enforcement) per country
- Illegal vet products smaller problem than in human medicine due to economics
- Problem smaller in food-exporting countries - higher enforcement/compliance

How we know it

- Law enforcement actions and data
- Market testing and extrapolation
- Industry & veterinarians' observations

What we don't know (enough)

- Exact scale of the problem
- Who is involved (beyond criminals)
- Exact impacts on animal, human and environmental health



Nearly half a million people are estimated to be killed by counterfeit medicines in sub-Saharan Africa every year – UNODC threat assessment report (Feb 2023)



Types of illegal veterinary medicines

Not legally authorized in a country

Illegal supply/use of an authorized veterinary medicine (f.e. no prescription)

Abuse of preparation regulations (f.e. compounding)

Counterfeit (falsified) medicines (non authorized use of trademarks/ violation IP rights, f.e. false labeling, different ingredients)

All illegal, but with varying levels of negative animal, human, environmental, business impacts.



Farmers and veterinary services

- Access to quality medicines is poor in remoter areas
- Lack of awareness among livestock farmers - focus on price

Distributors/importers

- Weak distribution channels + poor financial capacity of importers
- Interest of small distributors is financial, not quality or return customers
- Administrative procedures for imports long and bureaucratic

Authorities

- Inadequate regulations and enforcement - lack of governance
- Limited awareness (beyond ag. ministry) of threat to public and animal health
- Limited government policies or resources



Animal Health companies

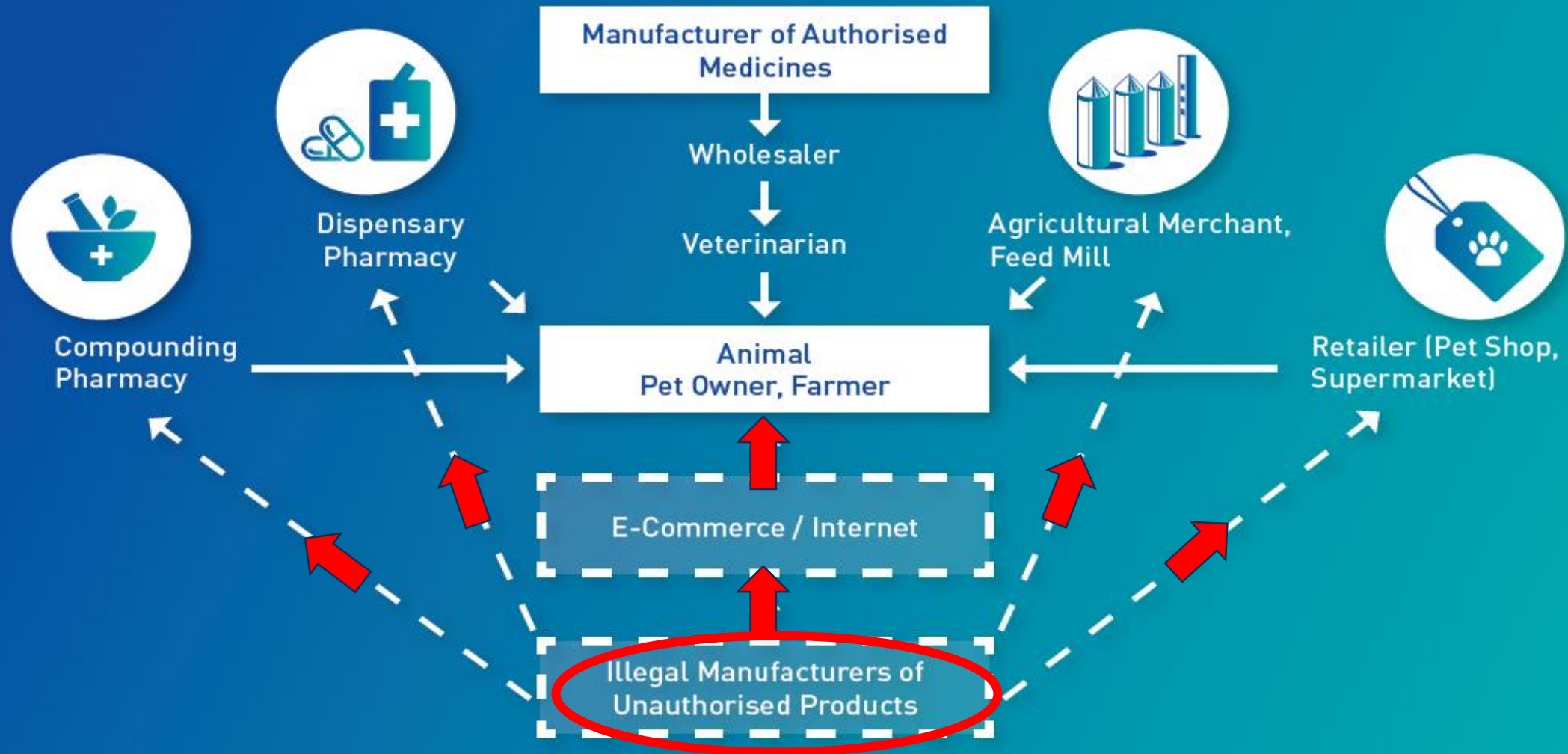
- Concerned about illegal animal medicines - threat to public, animal, environmental health and businesses
- Committed to controlling its legitimate supply chain
- Supportive of WOAHA to assess magnitude/nature of challenge
- All companies work with competent authorities on suspected cases
 - but challenging to share info during investigation/judicial procedure
- Supportive of efforts by national and global authorities to:
 - collect information about cases
 - coordinate and exchange information
 - take active measures to pursue/prosecute



Observations

- Regulatory agencies' resources (human+financial) are barrier to action
- Animal health not seen as significant, in comparison to human health
- Potential negative impact on human health is often not understood
 - food contamination
 - lack of efficacy of products → zoonosis
 - antiparasitic and antimicrobial resistance development
- Legal manufacturers will keep their products away from markets where enforcement authorities do not undertake enough efforts





Note that supply by e-commerce / internet also applies to approved, authentic veterinary medicines.

What actions should be taken?



Regulation & Enforcement Agencies

- Effective regulation
 - Necessary government resources
- Rigorous enforcement
- Collaboration
 - Police
 - Customs
 - Regulatory agencies
 - Professional bodies
 - Manufacturers
- Private prosecution, legal action

E-Commerce & Internet Sites

- Raise awareness
- Cease or comply
- Popup warning on legitimate sites
- Full compliance with legal requirements

Manufacturers of Authorised Medicines

- Raise awareness
- Collect data
- Leadership in working with enforcement agencies
- Evaluate technology to support enforcement
- Protect patents and trademarks
- Protect reputation

Veterinarians, Retailers, Wholesalers, Feed Mills

- Raise awareness
- Report illegal products
- Work with enforcement agencies
- Be alert and informed
- Do not encourage illegal compounded products and vaccines

Farmers

- Awareness of risks of illegal products:
 - Efficiency
 - Safety
 - Residues
 - Environment
- Business risk if illegal products are used
- Report illegal products

Pet Owners

- Awareness of risks of illegal products to efficiency and safety
- Report illegal products

Extensive report available

- HealthforAnimals global study
- Learn lessons from pharma, pesticide industries
- Actions and ideas



- <https://healthforanimals.org/resources/publications/publications/new-report-illegal-veterinary-medicines-impact-and-effective-control/>

Thank you

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