



WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

Medicines Recording

Whether you keep 500 cattle or three pet sheep, if you have farm animals in the UK, you are legally required to keep a medicines record – often called a *Medicines Book*.

We are increasingly seeing well-meaning smallholders and pet livestock keepers caught out by this, so we wanted to explain what the law requires, why it matters, and how to stay compliant.

What animals does this apply to?

The rules apply to **all “farm animals”**, even if they are pets or never enter the food chain. This includes:

- Cattle
- Sheep
- Goats
- Pigs
- Poultry (including backyard chickens)
- Camelids (alpacas, llamas)
- Farmed deer

If you keep any of these, you must keep medicines records.

What is a Medicines Book?

A medicines book is a written or digital record of:

- All prescription veterinary medicines you buy
- All medicines you administer
- Any medicines you dispose of

These records must be kept for **at least 5 years** and must be available for inspection by Trading Standards, APHA or other regulators.



What must be recorded?

For each medicine you must record:

- Date of purchase
- Name of medicine
- Batch number
- Quantity obtained
- Name of supplier

For disposal:

- Date disposed
- Quantity
- How it was disposed of

For each treatment given you must record:

- Date treated
- Animal identity (ear tag, flock, group etc.)
- Medicine used
- Dose given
- Route of administration
- Who administered it
- **Withdrawal period** (even if the animal is a pet)

Why is this so important?

Medicines records protect:

- ◆ **Your animals** – by preventing under-dosing, overdosing and repeated inappropriate treatments
- ◆ **Human health** – by ensuring food is safe and free from residues
- ◆ **Your legal position** – incomplete records can lead to enforcement action, fines, or cross-compliance penalties
- ◆ **Your vet's prescribing rights** – poor record keeping can restrict what we are allowed to prescribe in future

Records also help identify patterns of disease and improve long-term herd/flock health planning.

How can we help?

We can provide:

- ◆ Blank medicines book templates
- ◆ Discuss digital recording options
- ◆ Help you making you with making your first records
- ◆ Offer guidance on what you should be recording



If you are unsure whether you are completing medicines recording correctly, please contact the practice on 01328 864444 or email info@wensumvalleyvets.co.uk

