

# Antibiotic prescription in food-producing animals – A focus group study to assess Portuguese veterinarians’ knowledge and attitudes

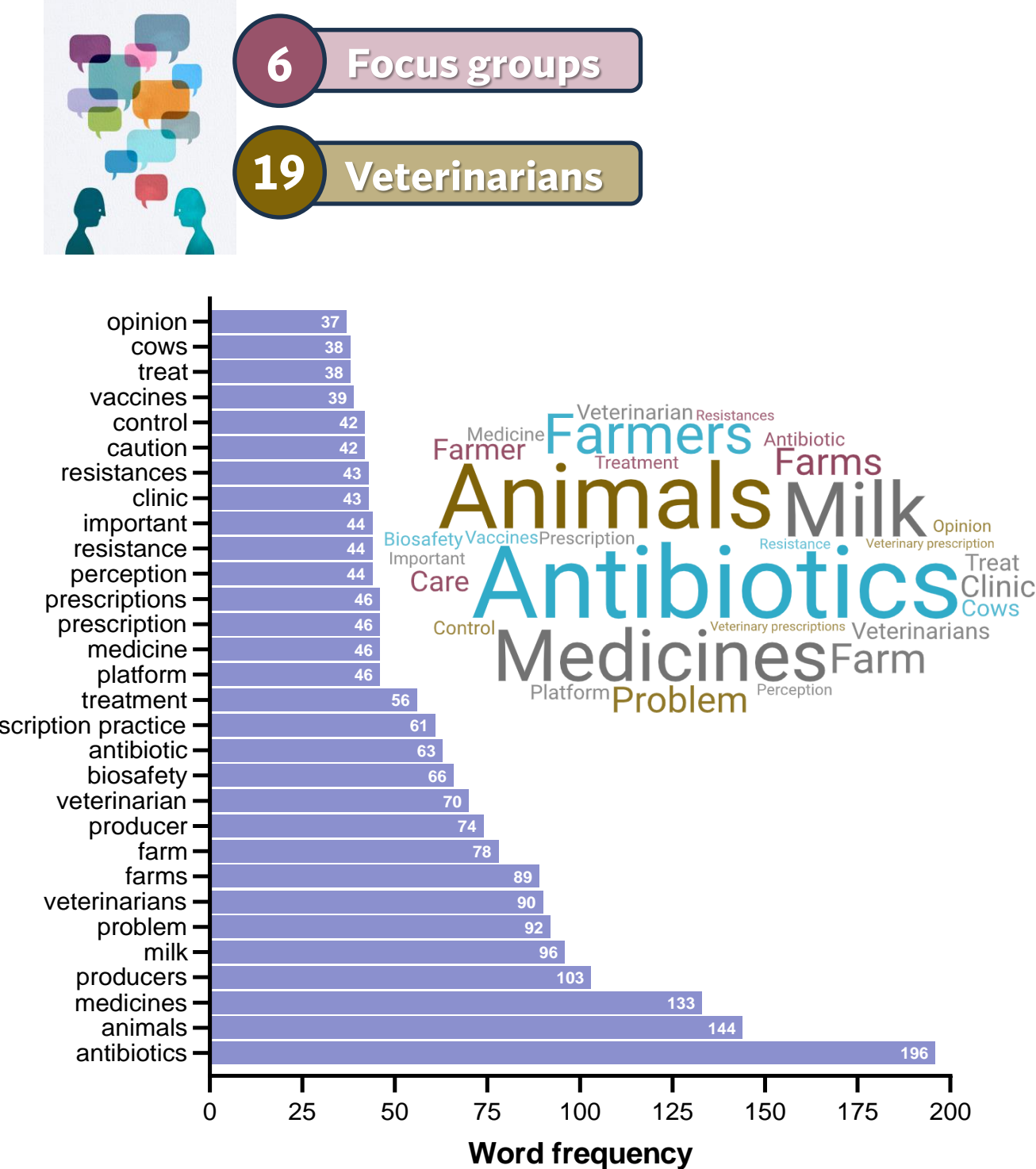
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The inadequate use of antibiotics in humans, animals, and agricultural practices have been associated with the emergence and dissemination of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. To successfully tackle the global public health problem of antibiotic resistance (ABR) is, therefore, necessary to take a One Health approach.

## 3 RESULTS



**Figure 1.** The 30 most frequent words spoken during the focus groups.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

This study identified several factors that can influence the veterinarian’s decision-making. Some of these factors can potentially be modified through educational interventions, aiming to increase awareness, of both veterinarians and clients, about ABR, to improve production practices and to promote adequate antibiotic use in veterinary.

## 2 METHODS

In this study, focus groups were carried out in Portuguese veterinarians whose practice was in production animals (bovine, equine, swine, ovine, and caprine). The topic guide was constructed based on the information obtained from a previous systematic review. Thematic analysis was performed using a qualitative analysis software.



### Factors that influence veterinarians’ prescription practices

Production-related factors	Large- vs small-scale farm Dairy vs beef
Client-related factors	Financial resources Knowledge about ABR Willingness to change Biosafety and vaccination
Veterinarian-related factors	Knowledge about ABR Professional experience Fear of losing the animal Fear of audits and sanctions
Available resources	Diagnostic/sensitivity tests Online prescription platform
Regulatory and surveillance	Legislation/bureaucracy Poor monitoring