

F.No. 18-03/2006-DC

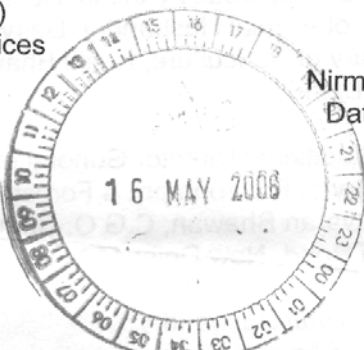
From:

The Drug Controller General (India)
Directorate General of Health Services

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 11th May, 2006

To

All State Drugs Controllers



Subject: Diclofenac for veterinary use – regarding.

Sir,

Serious concern has been expressed at different fora over the decline in the population of Vultures in Indian subcontinent. Extensive studies have indicated that use of diclofenac in livestock's is the major cause of Vultures decline. Vultures are exposed to diclofenac when they consume carcasses of livestock's treated with diclofenac before death. This results the poisoning of Vultures leading to their death because of renal failure etc. It has therefore been felt that diclofenac for veterinary use should be phased out and alternate safer and effective drug like Meloxicam etc. should be permitted to be used for the treatment of animals in veterinary healthcare. This would help in saving the vulture population and ecological balance in animal world.

It is understood that, Dept. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture has also issued direction to State Veterinary Departments not to purchase diclofenac for further veterinary use.

It has therefore been decided with the approval of Health Ministry that Licences granted to manufacture diclofenac formulations for veterinary use should be withdrawn and the marketing of such formulations to be phased out within a period of three months. You are therefore requested to implement the decision to withdraw the veterinary formulations of diclofenac and to ensure its phasing out within three months.

Yours faithfully,

(ASHWINI KUMAR)
DRUGS CONTROLLER GENERAL (I)