



TRANSHUMANCE & VULTURES

A unique example of the harmonious interaction between nature and people

VETERINARY DICLOFENAC IS LETHAL TO VULTURES



You can take action as the long standing guardians of the nature

Spain is home to more than 90% of the European Vultures. Among others, one reason for this high figure is the presence of extensive livestock management including transhumance.

But the vultures in Spain could be in danger from some veterinary drugs, particularly Veterinary Diclofenac.

Veterinary Diclofenac is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to treat livestock; when these contaminated livestock carcasses are left in nature, vultures feed on them, ingest Diclofenac in very small doses and die immediately. Veterinary Diclofenac caused a decline of 97-99% of several species of Gyps vultures in the Indian sub-continent in 15 years.

Despite its catastrophic impact veterinary Diclofenac was also licensed for sale in Spain in 2013. Scientific studies estimates that veterinary Diclofenac could kill more than 6,000 vultures in Spain annually.

Yet there are alternative veterinary drugs to Diclofenac, such as Meloxicam, that doesn't kill vultures and cost the same. Veterinary Diclofenac is not necessary.

- DON'T USE VETERINARY DICLOFENAC AND OTHER VETERINARY DRUGS (Flunixin, Carprofen, Ketoprofen...) THAT KILL VULTURES
- USE SAFE ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS SUCH AS MELOXICAM
- WARN THE VETERINARIANS PRESCRIBING VETERINARY DICLOFENAC AND REQUEST ALTERNATIVE SAFE DRUGS
- SHARE THE WORD WITH OTHER SHEPHERDS

VIVE LA TRASHUMANCIA Y LOS BUITRES



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Transhumance is the most sustainable livestock management system for people and nature. For thousands of years, transhumant shepherds have been moving through the rangelands with their herds, acknowledging the constant interaction and mutualism with nature. This wisdom leads to a deep sense of responsibility and connectedness to the landscapes they manage and thus to conserving these habitats with the species they support.

The interaction between transhumant shepherds and vultures is a good example of this mutualism which is beneficial to both parties

TRANSHUMANCE

- Ensuring availability of food to sustain healthy vulture populations
- Ensuring safer food than most vulture feeding sites.
- Ensuring unpredictable food in time and place – unlike vulture feeding sites
- Ensuring availability of suitable habitats for vultures to forage on wild prey items



VULTURES

- Cleaning up carcasses and other organic waste in the environment
- Preventing diseases spread
- Preventing emission of 77,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases and saving 50 millions of Euros annually in Spain, generated and spent by artificial carcass collection and transport to processing plants
- Preventing the increase at the populations of feral dogs and predators, by reducing carrion availability on the field
- Supporting sustainable and traditional livestock practices

Yet adverse policies could affect both transhumance and vultures in Spain

