

Why We Need the Animal Health Supplement (AHS) Act of 2026



THE PROBLEM: The lack of a clear and distinct regulatory framework has left the companion animal health supplement industry operating in a regulatory gray area for too long.

Currently, no clear regulatory pathway at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) exists for animal supplements and some states have their own regulatory framework, leading to inconsistency and uncertainty for manufacturers, veterinarians, retailers, and pet and horse owners. Under the current federal regulatory framework, animal supplements fall into two categories:

Existing Federal Regulatory Structure



Animal Feed/Food Supplements

Purpose

Contain nutrients that provide nutritional benefits in conjunction with a complete and balanced diet.

Examples

- Vitamins and minerals
- Fiber-based products
- Skin and coat products
- Essential fatty acid products



Regulatory Status: **CLEAR**



Classified as **ANIMAL FOOD** and subject to animal food requirements.



Animal Health Supplements

Purpose

Contain non-nutritive functional ingredients that help support or maintain normal body structure, function, and specific body systems.

Examples

- Hip and joint support
- Immune support
- Calming aids
- Organ-specific support
- Hairball products
- Urinary tract support



Regulatory Status: **UNCLEAR**



Classified as **UNAPPROVED NEW ANIMAL DRUGS (UNADs)** and under current agency approach are subject to FDA enforcement discretion and technically not legal.

VS

Lack of a Clear & Distinct Pathway Creates Confusion and Thwarts Innovation



Discourages business growth, hiring, and product innovation due to ongoing uncertainty surrounding federal oversight.



Reduces confidence among veterinarians, retailers, and pet and horse owners regarding the safe and appropriate use of animal health supplements.



Forces companies to navigate a patchwork of state laws that increases compliance burdens and impedes interstate and international commerce.

Enacting the AHS Act Would:

- Strengthen confidence among veterinarians, retailers, and pet and horse owners regarding the safe and appropriate use of animal health supplements.
- Create a predictable business environment for the animal health supplement industry by replacing the patchwork state regulations with uniform federal standards and oversight.
- Ensure a strong federal regulatory framework specifically designed for animal health supplement products.
- Build on NASC's proven voluntary compliance program and successful record of co-regulation between industry and the FDA.
- Promote U.S. leadership through best-in-class safety, quality, and oversight for animal health supplements.



The Animal Health Supplement (AHS) Act of 2026

The Animal Health Supplement (AHS) Act creates a clear and distinct federal framework for the animal health supplement industry that protects companion pets and horses, empowers consumers, and supports U.S. economic growth.

A CLEAR & DISTINCT REGULATORY CATEGORY

Creates a dedicated pathway for animal health supplements.

Provides a tailored regulatory framework for health supplements for companion animals, horses, and specialty pets, while excluding food-producing animals.

CONSUMER TRUST

Provides greater confidence for pet and horse owners and veterinarians.

Grants pet and horse owners and veterinarians greater confidence through consistent federal standards, transparent labeling, and science-based oversight.

REDUCED REGULATORY BURDEN

Establishes uniform federal standards.

Reduces regulatory complexity and compliance burdens for the animal health industry by replacing the current patchwork of state laws with a consistent national framework and allows for enforcement of the federal standard by FDA and at the state level.

SCIENCEBASED SAFETY GUARDRAILS

Formalizes responsible safety guardrails.

Builds on a proven FDA–NASC co-regulatory framework with Good Manufacturing Practices, adverse event reporting, recordkeeping, and clear labeling and claims requirements.

PRO-INNOVATION WITH STRONG CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

Prioritizes safety while encouraging innovation.

Grandfathers current ingredients and creates a reasonable safety notification and submission process to the FDA for new animal health ingredients.