

# Factors influencing antibiotic prescribing habits and use of sensitivity testing amongst veterinarians in Europe

The Heads of Medicines Agencies and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe undertook a survey to gain a better insight into the decision making process of veterinarians in Europe when prescribing antibiotics.

The survey was completed by 3017 practitioners including responses from 25 European countries. Analysis was to the level of different types of practitioner (food producing animals, companion animals, equines) and country for Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden and UK.



Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

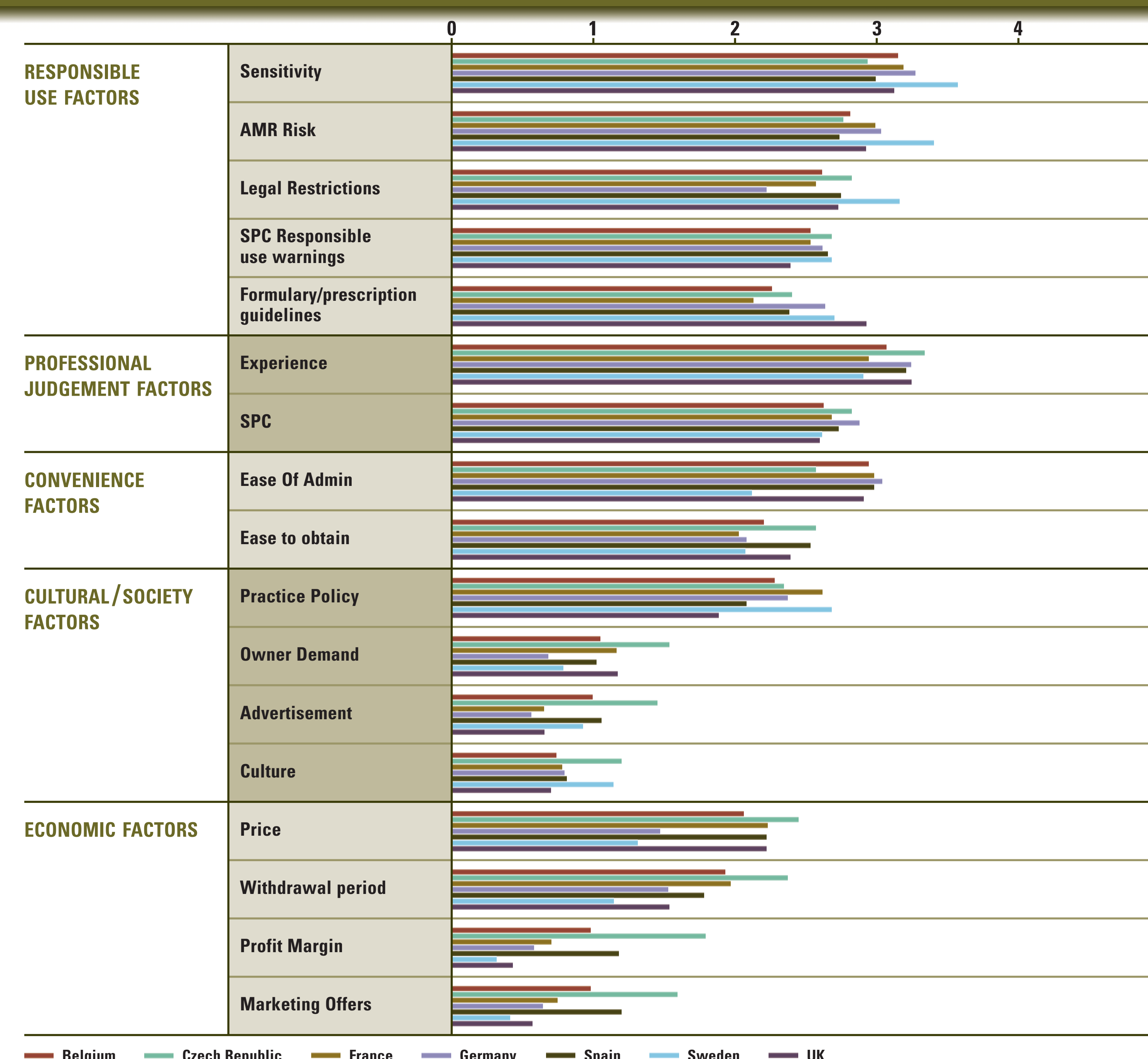
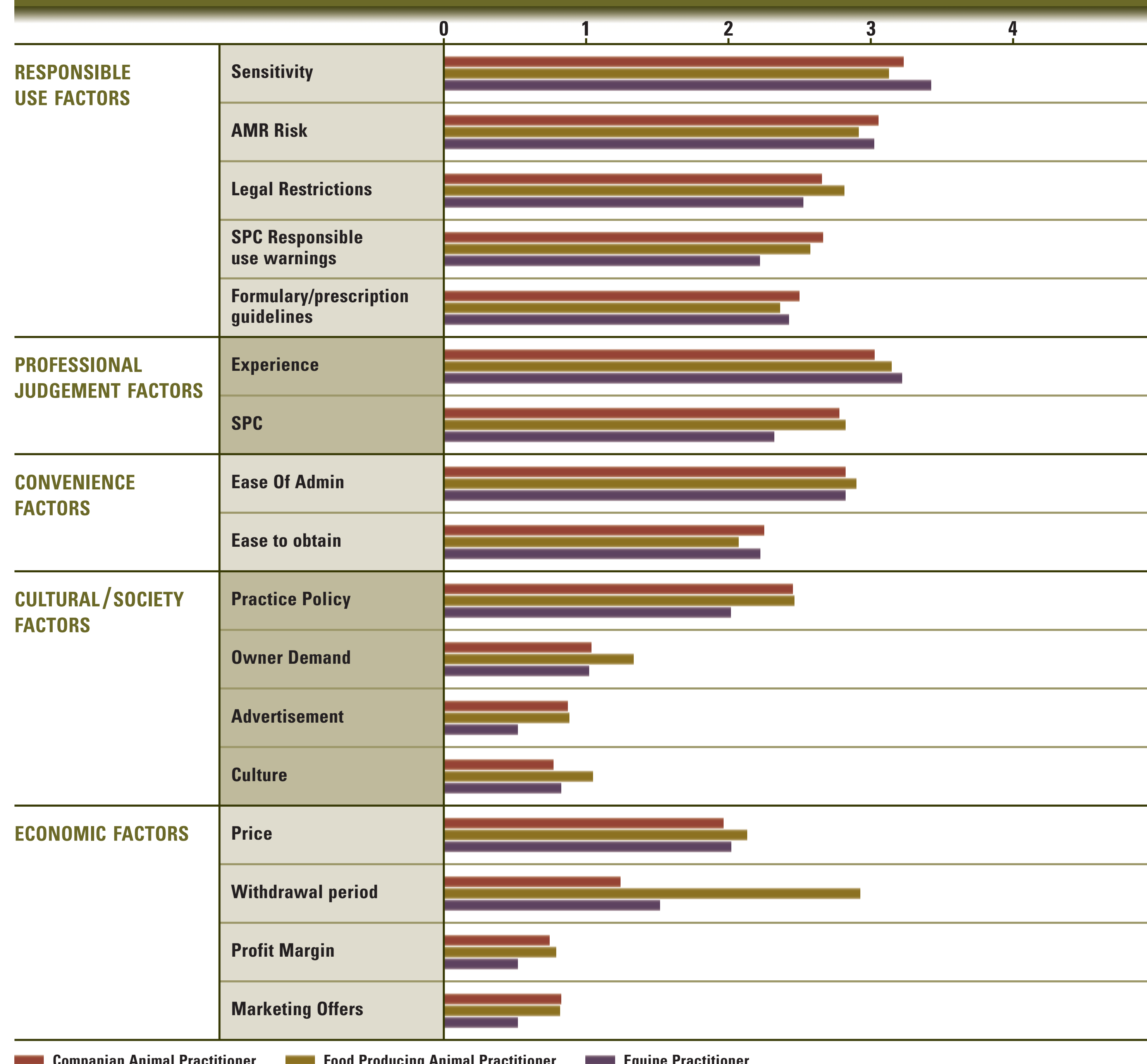
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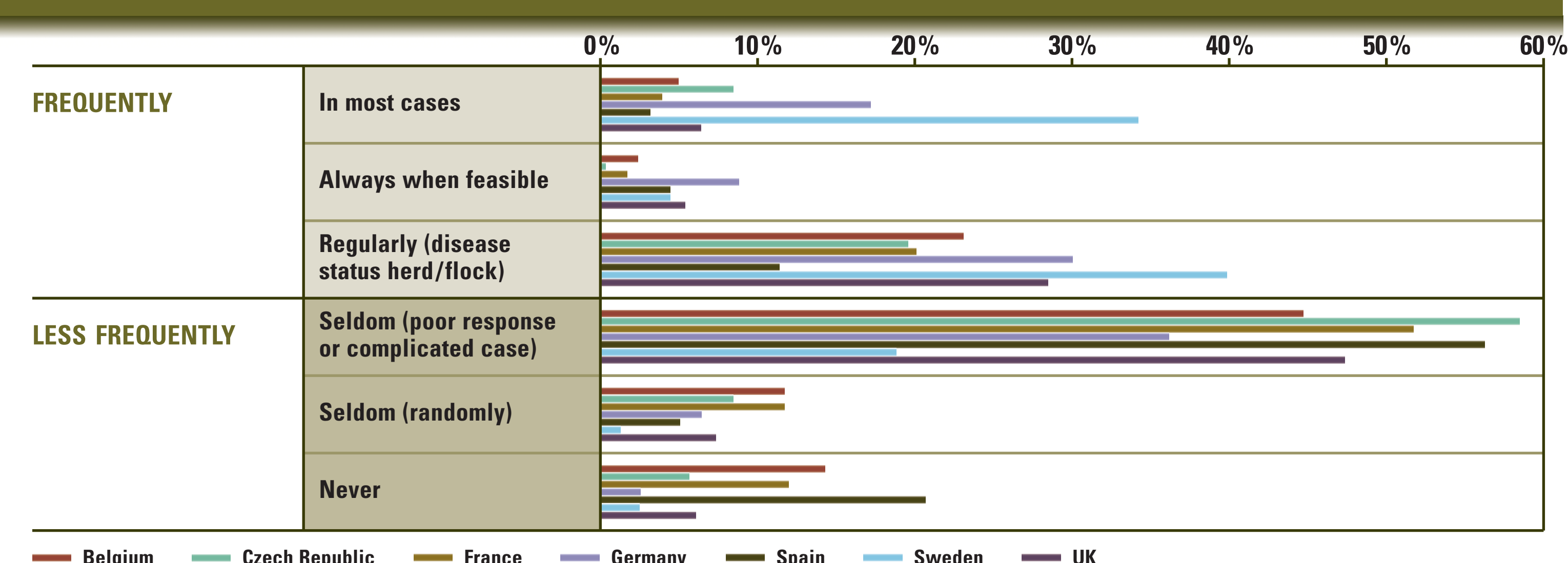
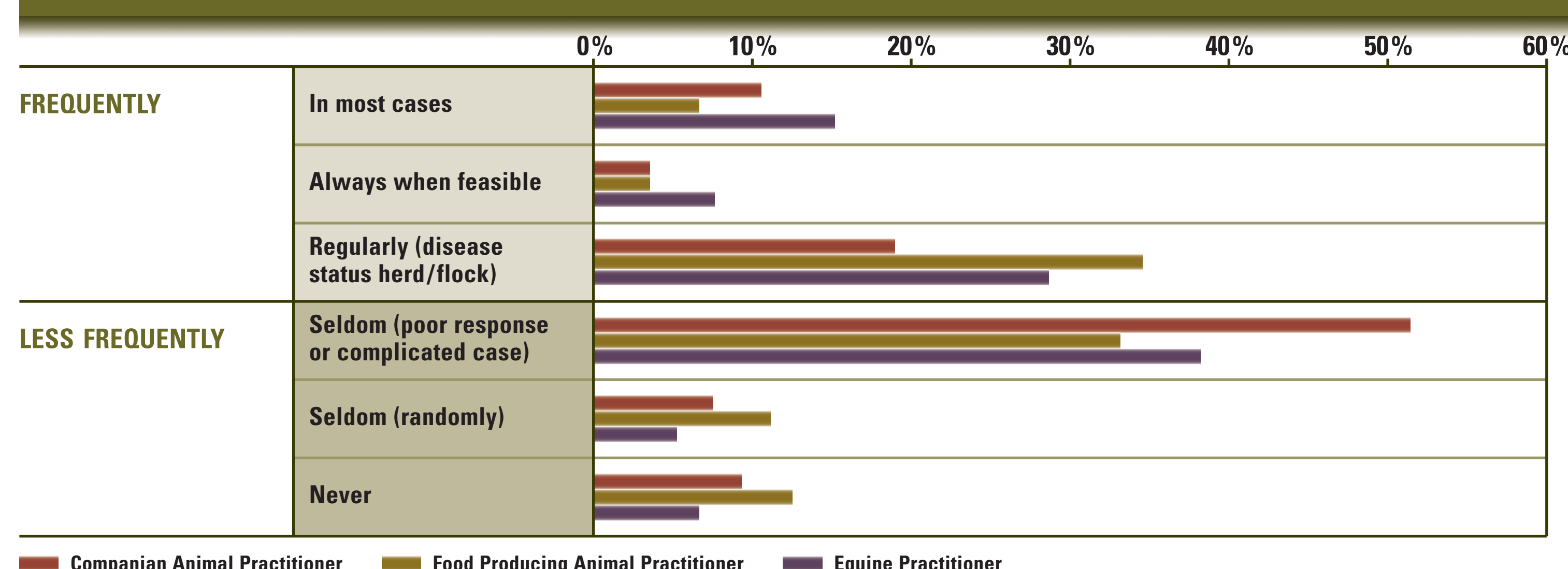
## Responses indicated

- No single information source is universally considered critical, though training, published literature and experience were indicated as the most important.
- Factors which most strongly influence prescribing behaviour were recorded as sensitivity tests, own experience, the risk for antibiotic resistance developing and ease of administration.
- Most practitioners usually take into account responsible use warnings.
- Antibiotic sensitivity testing is usually performed where a treatment failure has occurred.
- Significant differences were observed in the frequency of sensitivity testing between the different types of practitioners and the different countries studied.

Mean score of importance given by the responses from different types of practitioners and from practitioners from 7 different countries for the factors influencing prescribing behaviour suggested on a scale of 0 to 4 (0 = not important; 4 = most important)



Frequency of sensitivity testing reflecting differences according to type of practice and country (expressed as a percentage of the total number of responses in the relevant practice type or country)



The responses indicate that there is a need to improve sensitivity tests and services in this area, with the availability of rapid and cheaper testing being key factors.