

## Veterinary Diclofenac drug banned

**ISLAMABAD:** The Health Ministry on Thursday, banned the veterinary Diclofenac drug with immediate effect, due to its adverse effects on vulture population. The registration board thoroughly considered the published data on the decline in vulture population due to use of veterinary Diclofenac. It has been proved through international research that veterinary Diclofenac causes renal failure in vultures because of which their population in Asia has declined drastically. Research shows that loss of vulture population has serious negative impacts, like loss of natural scavenging system that could lead to the spread of animal and human diseases since vultures quickly dispose off carcasses of animals that die of anthrax and any other deadly disease including potential rabies epidemic. It has also been proved that Meloxicam, which is as effective as Diclofenac in treating livestock, is safe for vultures. **APP**