One Health and Health Literacy

Francois Elvinger, Kerry Redican, Susan Marmagas, Kathy Hosig, Kaja Abbas, Andrea Bertke, Brandy Burgess, Stephen Eubank, Nick Evans, Jennifer Hodgson, Shantal Hoover, Tom Kerkering, Molly O’Dell, Jacqueline Pelzer, Bess Pierce, Bill Pierson, Valerie Ragan, Gerhardt Schurig, Sophie Wenzel

Public Health Program
Department of Population Health Science
Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

What is One Health?

One Health recognizes the dynamic interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health, and encompasses the interdisciplinary efforts of medical, veterinary, public health and environmental professionals to protect, promote, and improve health.

Virginia Tech VMVM Population Health Group

One Health and Rabies

- Physicians to vaccinate & treat victims.
- Veterinarians to vaccinate dogs & cats.
- Wildlife experts to advise on oral vaccination.
- Ecologists to tell responsible authorities why sterilization is better than culling.
- Sanitarians to eliminate garbage that feeds strays.
- Educators to teach people to vaccinate their pets.
- Media to inform about risks & prevention.

Source: One Health Initiative, http://www.onehealthinitiative.com

One Health and Obesity

- Physicians to diagnose and treat
- Veterinarians to promote pets and physical activity
- Educators to increase health literacy
- Public Health Professionals to mobilize the community/HP 2020


Support for One Health

Facilitates and coordinates program activities that seek to attain optimal health for people and animals by promoting global collaboration between human and veterinary medicine while engaging the principles of public health and ecosystem health.”

“Greater progress in prevention and control of infectious diseases requires a more directed effort focusing on the complex interplay between human health, the health of animals, and the environment” http://www.cdc.gov

The public health challenges of the 21st century demand that multidisciplinary groups of professionals work together to address new and re-emerging issues affecting global health and economic stability (National Environmental Health Association)

The Veterinary Public Health Special Primary Interest Group (VPH) focuses on the interface of humans and animals; not just the diseases but the quality of life, health benefits, and environmental health issues as well. We positively influence the human-animal connection and advance the One Health concept (VPH, American Public Health Association)

One Health is the integrative effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment. Together, the three make up the One Health triad, and the health of each is inextricably connected to the others in the triad. Understanding and addressing the health issues created at this intersection is the foundation for the concept of One Health (American Veterinary Medical Association)

Resolution 530 – One Health

Increase acceptance of a One Health approach solving health problems.
Increase acceptance of One Health through including all health professions.
Incorporate One Health in the K-16 setting.
Increase awareness of One Health by the general public.

Implications for Health Literacy

http://www.mph.vetmed.vt.edu