



CANADIAN VETERINARY  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
DES MÉDECINS VÉTÉRINAIRES

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2021

### **National Veterinary Association Educates Canadians on One Health, the Critical Links Between Animal, Human, and Environmental Health**

OTTAWA, Ont. – The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) celebrates Animal Health Week from October 3 – 9, 2021, highlighting the importance of **One Health**, the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment.

This year's theme **Animal Health + Human Health + Planet Health = One Health** showcases how Canada's veterinary professionals occupy unique positions within the national One Health community, protecting animal health which, in turn, protects everyone's health.

"Our veterinary profession proudly embraces the concept of *One Health*, where the health of humans, animals and the environment are closely linked," explains Dr. Louis Kwantes CVMA President. "While not a new concept for us as our profession has generally welcomed transdisciplinary collaboration, it is not without challenges. Integrative efforts need to occur on a global level, as well local and national levels to achieve a healthier world for all."

During Animal Health Week 2021, we are educating animal owners that:

- It is more important than ever for people to understand the critical links between animal, human, and environmental health.
- Animals, people, and the environment; keeping one healthy requires that all be healthy.
- The veterinary profession holds significant roles and responsibilities to safeguard ONE HEALTH.
- Veterinarians are ONE HEALTH practitioners by protecting the health and safety of animals, and, in turn, people, and the environment.
- Veterinarians have critical ONE HEALTH roles in food safety, environmental protection, and public health.

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“As we become more interconnected globally, especially in regard to global travel among younger generations, it is apparent that veterinarians, doctors, and scientists need to work together to ensure a healthy future for animals, humans, and the planet,” adds Dr. Kwantes. “The risk of exposure to new viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing pathogens is constantly increasing; just look at the COVID-19 outbreak and how quickly it spread globally. Bacterial zoonosis hasn’t had the same coverage as COVID-19 recently, but it’s also a huge concern as bacterial resistance to conventional antibiotics is increasing and represents one of the most serious threats to global health and food security.”

Veterinary practices across Canada are celebrating Animal Health Week this year by engaging their clientele through educational resources.

The CVMA celebrates Animal Health Week in partnership with the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada. This year’s Animal Health Week is generously sponsored by iFinance Canada (Petcard) and Petsecure Pet Health Insurance.

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#### Associated Links

- CVMA’s annual [Animal Health Week](#)
- 2021 Animal Health Week [video](#)
- [Animalhealthcare.ca](http://Animalhealthcare.ca), CVMA’s public resources for animal owners

*The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association is the national and international voice for Canada’s veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. Animal Health Week is a national public awareness campaign organized by the CVMA and hosted by veterinarians across Canada. Each year, during the first week of October, veterinarians and veterinary hospitals and clinics across Canada promote animal health and responsible animal ownership as part the of Animal Health Week celebrations. Visit [canadianveterinarians.net](http://canadianveterinarians.net) to learn more about CVMA.*

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