Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Promotes a
One Health Approach to Veterinary Care during Animal Health Week

OTTAWA, Ont. – The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) would like to recognize Animal Health Week, from October 2 to 8, by drawing attention to the important role veterinarians play in “One Health.”

The theme, Animal Health + Human Health + Planet Health = One Health, highlights the veterinary profession’s unique position to improve the health and welfare of the animals they treat in a manner that also protects and supports human health and a healthy environment.

“The CVMA has celebrated Animal Health Week for over 30 years, and now, more than ever, it is essential that we do everything we can to contribute to One Health. All healthcare practitioners, including veterinarians, must practice the One Health approach,” says Dr. Troy Bourque, CVMA President.

The CVMA is reminding animal owners they also play a role in ensuring the health of their animals benefits the health of humans and the environment.

CVMA encourages regular veterinary visits to ensure animals receive required vaccinations and appropriate health screening. Animal owners should be aware that:

- The concept of ONE HEALTH involves groups of professionals, including veterinarians, physicians, and scientists, working together to attain optimal health for animals, people, and the environment.
- The health of humans, animals and ecosystems is interconnected. Keeping one healthy requires that all are healthy.
- Everyone can contribute to ONE HEALTH for the betterment of health in people, animals and the planet.
- The health of your animal can have an important influence on your health and global health.
- Veterinarians play a critical role in ONE HEALTH as they manage the connection between animal health, human health and the state of the environment.
- Responsible animal ownership that includes regular veterinary visits, vaccinations, parasite prevention, exercise and optimal nutrition protects the health of people and our global environment for ONE HEALTH.

One Health is particularly relevant to the development of collaborative strategies for prudent antimicrobial use and its relation to the control of antimicrobial resistance.

“Throughout my years in practice it has become increasingly clear that we need to operate in ways that benefit all - including responsible antibiotic prescribing practices, proper drug/waste disposal methods, efficient management of zoonotic diseases, and providing overall preventative care,” says Dr. Bourque.
Over 200 veterinary practices across Canada are celebrating Animal Health Week this year through various events and engaging their clientele through educational resources.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association celebrates Animal Health Week in partnership with the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada. Animal Health Week is generously sponsored by Petsecure Pet Health Insurance, iFinance Petcard and Merial.

Associated Links

- CVMA’s annual Animal Health Week
- 2016 Animal Health Week video
- 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 of Animal Health Week celebrations. Visit canadianveterinarians.net to learn more about CVMA.

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