



88 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452
(802) 878-6888 voice • www.vtvets.org • kathy@vtvets.org

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kathy Finnie, Executive Director
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
802-878-6888
Kathy@vtvets.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Libraries to Celebrate One Health Day, November 3rd

November 3, 2016 marks the first celebration of One Health Day. One Health is the concept recognizing that human health, animal health, and the health of the environment are closely interrelated and thus should often be considered as a whole. One Health Day is an international campaign aimed at bringing attention to the need for a One Health approach to tackle many of today's pressing health challenges.

The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) is partnering with local libraries to celebrate the first One Health Day. About fifteen public libraries around the state will be presenting special displays of books on One Health topics. These books, on loan from the VVMA, are available for circulation to library patrons. Displays will begin around November 3 and continue for varying times throughout the year.

Examples of One Health Topics

- Diseases spread from animals to people, called zoonoses, are a One Health topic. Rabies is an example of a zoonotic disease. Each year, 25 to 50 animals in Vermont are found to have rabies.
- Emerging diseases shared by humans and animals are another One Health topic. About three-quarters of human diseases emerging in the last 30 years have originated in animals. Examples include Ebola, AIDS, Hanta, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome). All these viruses cause serious human disease and many of them have been responsible for devastating disease outbreaks.
- Areas beyond infectious disease also fall under the broad One Health umbrella. The human animal bond is recognized as providing health benefits across a spectrum of human conditions. Pet ownership has been shown to improve physical health of cardiac and cancer patients alike, while animal-assisted therapy (AAT) has gained widespread recognition for its beneficial effects for children with autism. AAT is also now being used in many other ways such as reading dogs (improving children's reading skills through reading aloud to dogs) and canine advocacy programs (dogs helping calm child victims while in the criminal justice system).

About One Health Day

November 3, 2016 marks the first global One Health Day to highlight the importance of addressing human, animal, and environmental health together. Beginning around November 3,

nine public libraries around the state will have special displays of books on One Health topics for the public to borrow. After initial displays finish, some will then move on to other nearby libraries. Participating libraries include Essex Free Library, Burnham Memorial (Colchester), Pierson (Shelburne), Dorothy Alling (Williston), South Hero Community Library, Kellogg Hubbard (Montpelier), Baldwin Memorial (Wells River), Barnet Public Library, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Jones Memorial (Orleans), Goodrich Memorial (Newport), Barton and Glover Public Libraries, and Manchester Community Library. You can also visit the VVMA website at www.vtvets.org for your own reading list of One Health books and to learn more about One Health.

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The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) is a professional organization of over 350 veterinarians dedicated to compassionate animal care and quality medicine. For more information, visit www.vtvets.org or call (802) 878-6888.