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AUBURN UNIVERSITY

College of Veterinary Medicine

# INFECTION CONTROL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2026

This issue is all about:  
One Health

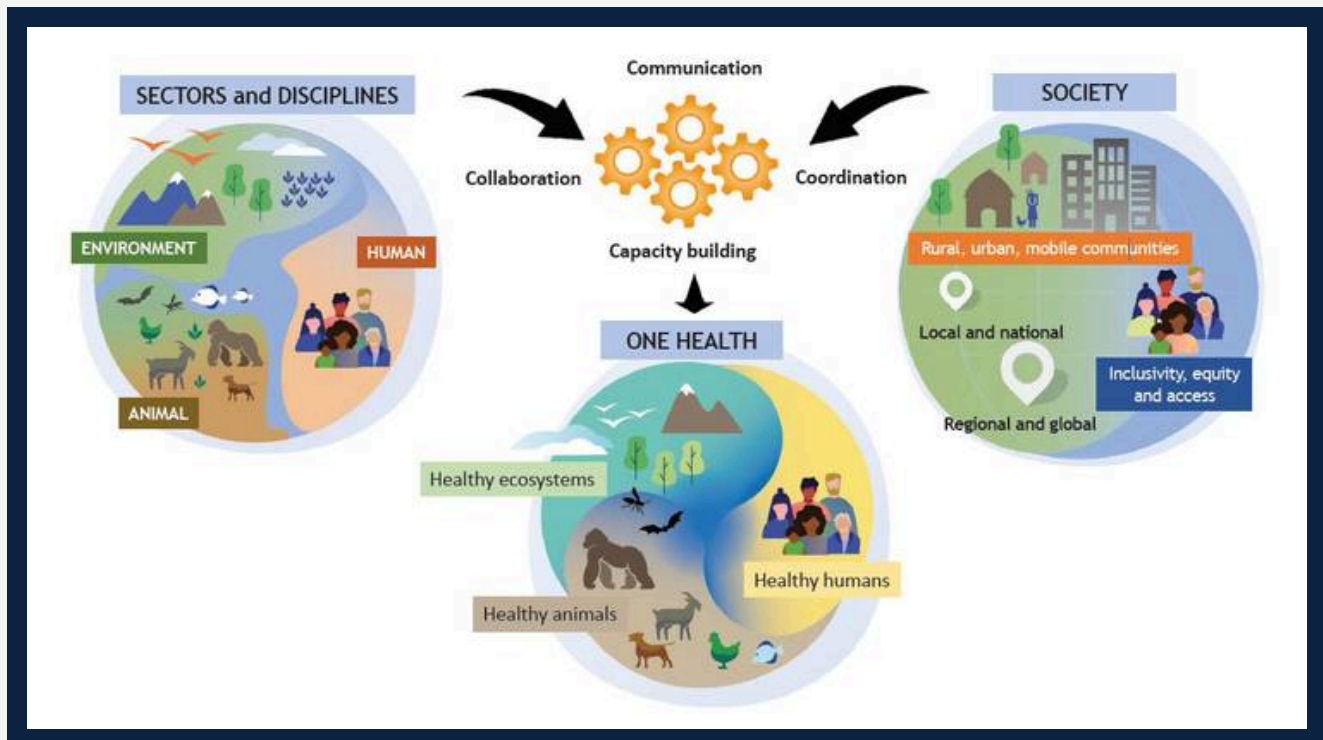


January is **One Health Awareness Month!** The first One Health Awareness Month campaign was launched on Facebook in 2019 by the *One Health Commission and Louisiana One Health in Action*. The campaign was picked up and promoted by One Health advocates around the world, and is now



## One Health 101

### What is One Health?



**One Health** is the idea that the health of humans, animals, and the environment are all interconnected, and one cannot be fully optimized without considering all three. One Health uses a trans-disciplinary approach to tackling health problems, which involves having multiple disciplines work together across different levels of society (academia, policy, civil society, etc.) to solve problems, rather than each sector and level working separately.

One Health is a growing movement with roots dating back to the 19th century, when human physicians began to notice the link between human and animal diseases (known today as zoonotic diseases).

(AAHA), [American Veterinary Medical Association \(AVMA\)](#), [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), [UN Environment Programme](#), [World Organization for Animal Health \(WOAH\)](#), [Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations](#), and the [American Public Health Association \(APHA\)](#).

Learn more about how veterinarians play a key role in One Health or download the 2025 AAHA One Health guidelines at the links below!

[AAHA One Health Guidelines](#)

[AVMA](#)

## One Health and Veterinary Medicine



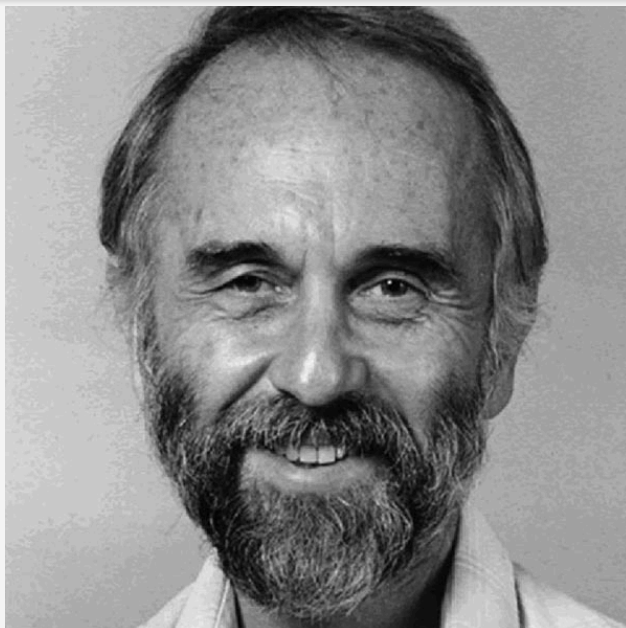
Because humans and animals interact closely together in veterinary medicine, One Health is an important concept to integrate into any infection control program in a veterinary setting. Not only do we have to work to prevent zoonotic transmission between people and animals, but environmental contamination as well.

Infectious agents may have the potential to linger in the air or contaminate common surfaces such as keyboards, door handles, kennels, floors, etc. This contamination puts otherwise healthy humans and animals at risk of infection if they are exposed (inhalation, direct or indirect contact, etc.).

A One Health approach within veterinary infection control contributes to overall better public health. Everyone in the hospital from veterinarians, veterinary technicians, front desk staff, students, administration, etc. plays an important role in this process. To learn more, visit the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) page on "Veterinarian's and One Health" at the link below.

[Veterinarians and One Health](#)

## Fun Fact!



## Did you know...

that one of our very own Auburn alumni was a major contributor to the One Health movement? **Dr. Calvin Schwabe**, DVM, ScD, MPH graduated from the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1954. He was a Professor at the University of California-Davis, and is widely known as the Father of Veterinary Epidemiology. In 1966 he founded the first Veterinary Epidemiology department at the UC Davis Veterinary School (known as the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine).

In 1964, he wrote of the importance for veterinary and human health professionals to collaborate to effectively combat zoonotic diseases. In his 1969 textbook *Veterinary Medicine and Human Health*, he coined the term “*One Medicine*,” paving the way for what would become the concept of “*One Health*” that we know today. In his textbook, he emphasized that “*One Medicine*” recognizes the similarities between veterinary and human medicine, and that the best way to effectively treat, prevent, and control diseases for both humans and animals is for both fields to collaborate.

To read more about the history and development of the One Health movement, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) page on One Health history at the link below!

[One Health History](#)

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**INFECTION CONTROL FEATURETTES**

asked a handful of them how One Health plays into their work and its importance in veterinary medicine!

**Dr. Belsare** on how One Health relates to his research and field of study in Wildlife Ecology:

“One Health is central to my research because it recognizes that human, animal, and environmental health cannot be considered in isolation. While the concept itself is not new, it has gained renewed importance as complex health challenges increasingly emerge at the intersections of these systems. My work focuses on diseases with conservation (e.g. Chronic Wasting Disease) and/ or human health implications (e.g. Rabies), many of which involve multihost pathogens that infect more than one species. Zoonoses, by definition, are multihost pathogens. Many wildlife pathogens can indirectly but profoundly influence human health and well-being (e.g. White-nose syndrome). Understanding this broader ecological context is what makes One Health especially relevant in the twenty first century.”



**Dr. Aniruddha Belsare**, BVSc & AH,  
PhD  
Assistant Professor of Disease  
Ecology, Department of Pathobiology



**Dr. Amanda Gross, PhD**  
Assistant Research Professor, Scott-  
Ritchey Research Center

**Dr. Gross** on how the concept of One Health is incorporated to her approach to research:

“The concept of One Health is at the very core of my research. Most of the same genetic and infectious diseases that affect humans also affect animals and vice versa. With my research, I aim to either directly address these issues, with developing a treatment for Rabies virus or evaluating human approved epilepsy treatments for animals, or indirectly by developing a technology or platform that could easily be translated to a new species or disease. I fully believe a development in one species can be applicable to most species and we need to keep investigating that as we move forward.”

**Dr. Bennet** on how One Health plays a role in his work in Farm Animal Services?

As a large animal veterinarian, I'm able to promote animal health but also influence the health and wellbeing of my clients by keeping them aware of how zoonotic diseases can impact them. There are so many emerging and re-emerging pathogens that can impact our lives daily."



**Dr. Andy Bennet, DVM**  
Assistant Clinical Professor, Farm Animal Services; Program Veterinarian, College of Agriculture

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Know someone you want to nominate for the infection control spotlight? Fill out the survey below! Let us know their name, department, role, and a short description of why you would like them to be highlighted for their infection control efforts!

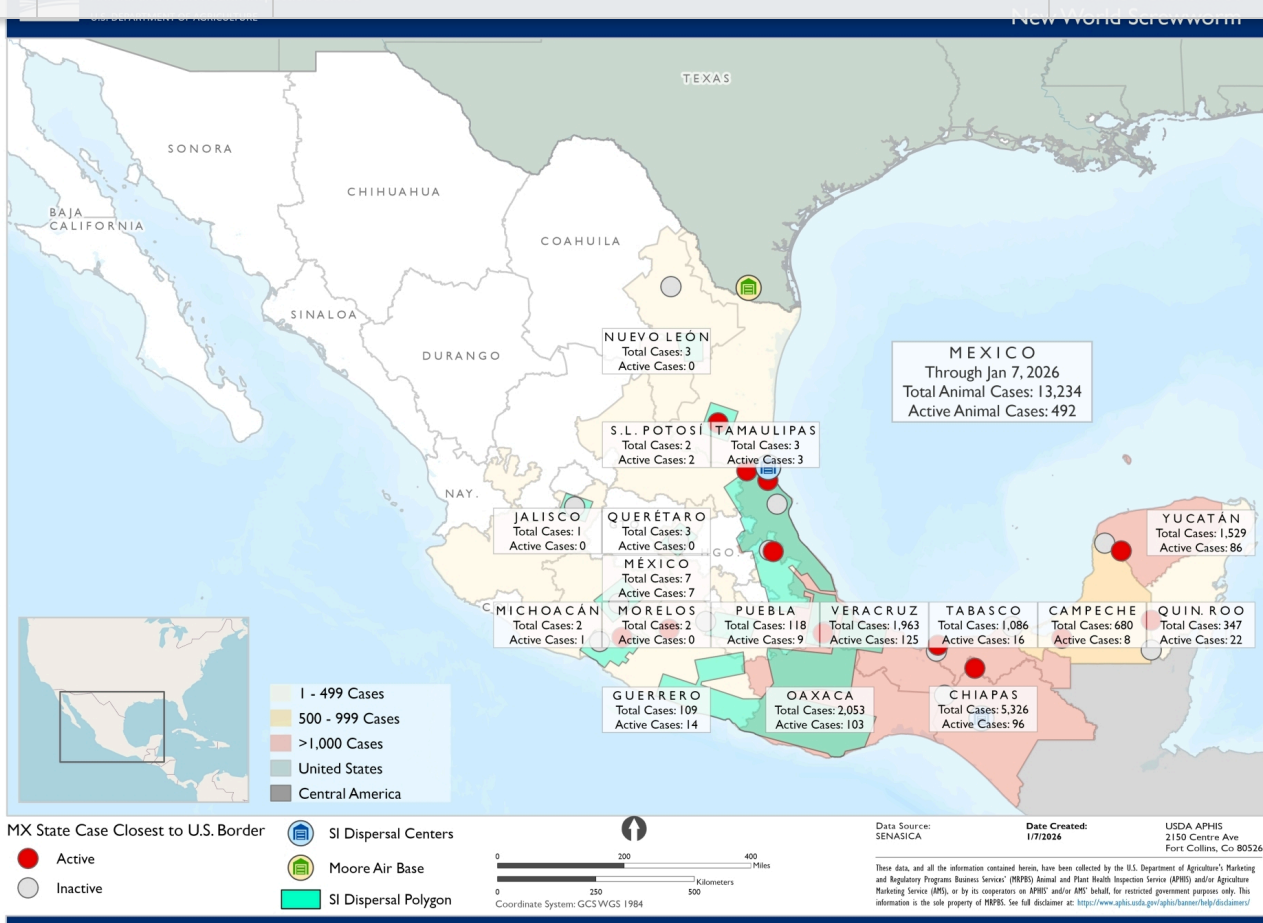
[Spotlight Nomination Survey](#)

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## ONE HEALTH IN THE NEWS

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### New World Screwworm



**New World Screwworm (NWS)** is a parasitic fly that lays their fly larva in open wounds and feeds on living tissue, causing serious and deadly damage to the host. NWS can infest livestock, pets, wildlife, occasionally birds, and (more rarely) humans.

NWS was eradicated from the U.S. in 1966, but is currently endemic in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and several countries in South America. There has been a large increase of cases in Panama, Costa Rica, and Mexico starting in 2023, with over 13,000 total animal cases (and hundreds of active animal cases).

As of September 2025, NWS cases have been confirmed in the state of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, less than 70 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and federal government are enhancing prevention efforts to avoid NWS entering the U.S. \$8.5 million has been allocated to launch a sterile NWS fly dispersal facility in South Texas, as well as additional plans to enhance the USDA's ability to detect, control, and eliminate NWS.

Current Status

USDA

## Human-to-Human Rabies Transmission Via Organ Transplantation From A Donor With Undiagnosed Rabies



In February 2025, the CDC confirmed a fatal case of rabies that occurred in a patient who received a kidney transplant from an undiagnosed donor. Three patients who received cornea grafts from the same donor had their grafts removed, were given prophylaxis treatment, and are currently asymptomatic.

The donor had reportedly been scratched by a skunk five weeks prior to his death, and family had reported him experiencing confusion, difficulty swallowing and walking, hallucinations, and a stiff neck. When he was found unresponsive in his home, it was assumed to be due to cardiac arrest. Strains of rabies from a bat were detected upon biopsy of the kidney sample.

Human-to-human transmission of rabies via organ transplantation is rare, with four cases having occurred in the U.S. since 1978. Read more about the situation from the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report at the link below.

[MMWR](#)

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## Raw Food Diets



Raw diets have become a popular fad diet for pets in the last few years, however, many professional organizations advise against it. Raw meat and eggs can contain pathogens that cause foodborne illness, including *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Campylobacter*, and *Trichinella*, in your pets. Many of these pathogens can commonly spread from your pet to humans through exposure to their feces. Additionally, providing bones or fish still containing bones can puncture the stomach lining in your cat or dog due to sharp edges.

The **American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)** identified several groups that raw protein diets demonstrate a health risk for, including the pets eating the diet, other animals in contact with these pets or their feces, human family members, and the public. The **American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)** published in their journal “Current knowledge about the risks and benefits raw meat-based diets for dogs and cats”, which includes health risks including nutritional concerns, safety risks, and other health risks including fractured teeth and injuries to the stomach from bones or health risks for people.

[AAHA](#)[AVMA](#)

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## Human Cases of Bird Flu



A resident in Washington state was the first confirmed human case of H5N5 bird flu strain, and passed away from the infection in November 2025. The patient was identified as an older adult with underlying medical conditions, and had a backyard flock of mixed species at home with exposure to wild birds. Previous human cases of bird flu have been caused by the H5N1 strain, which generally presents mild illness in humans.

As migratory season for birds is ongoing, it's important to continue biosecurity best practices both in the home and veterinary settings. Read more of the current situation in the U.S. from the World Health Organization (WHO) at the link below.

[World Health Organization](#)

## RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES



# Firstline

**Firstline** is a health technology company that has created a free clinical decision support tool for healthcare providers. Healthcare organizations partner with them to create and share modules that contain various topics and clinical guidelines that can be accessed by anyone. No account with Firstline is needed to access the modules!

While most modules are centered around human healthcare, several veterinary modules have been created by various institutions, including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Ontario College of Veterinary Medicine. These organizations have created modules that can be used for small animal, large animal, and equine guidelines.

To download the application and access the modules on your phone, scan the QR code below. You can also view the modules on the Firstline webpage on a computer or laptop. For detailed instructions on how to select the veterinary medicine modules from the app or the webpage, click the “Download Instructions for App” button below for PDF instructions that have been uploaded to the CVM community page.

## Download Firstline on Mobile

Scan the QR code with your device



[Firstline Webpage](#)

[Download Instructions for App](#)

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## One Health: Dogs and Cats as Sentinels for Human Risk Course



The **VetMedTeam** organization is offering a **FREE** self-study course that meets the requirements for **1 RACE hours of continuing education credits** for veterinary technicians and veterinarians!

Course description: “This case-based course summarizes key clinical aspects of ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, and Lyme, including the One Health concern. It explains how dogs and cats can act as sentinels for human exposure risk to parasites. Recent peer-reviewed literature as well as evidence and expert based guidelines will be

pet owners."

The course is open enrollment and participants may enroll at any time. Click the button below to register for the course.

Course Registration

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## AVMA One Health Webinars



The **American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)** offers free One Health related webinars. From their website, “These webinars will deepen your understanding of One Health and the important role that veterinary professionals play in it—particularly when it comes to public health issues, like food safety and security, disaster response, the human-animal bond, and diseases that can be transmitted between people and animals.”

Webinar topics included:

- Caring for pets of the sick and elderly
- Biosecurity intervention: swine industry model
- Climate change: agriculture and human health
- Fungal zoonotic diseases: updates
- Prevent the next pandemic: a One Health approach
- Veterinary first responder certificate program
- Small ruminant husbandry and regulatory issues
- Transboundary animal diseases: Beyond the zoonoses
- And many more!

AVMA One Health Webinars

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## Zoonosis and One Health Update Calls



The CDC hosts the monthly **Zoonosis and One Health Update (ZOHU)** calls to “increase participant’s knowledge and competencies on zoonotic diseases and One Health issues, their effects on human, animal, and environmental health, and strategies for preventing, detecting, and responding to zoonotic disease and threats.”

Subscribe to the monthly calls at the link below. **FREE** continuing education is available for live calls and recordings!

ZOHU

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## Participants Wanted For Research Survey On Antimicrobial Use in Dogs



The **International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases (ISCAID)** is a professional organization for veterinarians with a special interest in infectious diseases in companion animals. They recognize the need for human medicine working in infectious diseases to collaborate with veterinary medicine, as zoonotic diseases are a continuing threat to human health, with approximately 75% of emerging infectious diseases in humans being zoonotic.

Dr. Erin Frey of North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine is a member of ISCAID, and conducting a survey research study to learn more about **veterinarians’ preferences for perioperative and postoperative antimicrobial use in dogs**. If you would like to contribute to the research study, the link to the survey can be found at the button below. Please see the information below the survey link for more information on the study.

You must be 18 years or older to complete this survey. This survey should take approximately 10 minutes. Completing this survey is voluntary, and you can stop at any time by closing your web browser and deleting cookies or browser history. The data collected about you from this survey will be stored in accordance with the North Carolina State University data protection standards. This study has been approved by North Carolina State University's Institutional Review Board (IRB), protocol #28763. If you have any questions about the survey, how it is implemented, or the research study, please contact Dr. Frey at [erin\\_frey@ncsu.edu](mailto:erin_frey@ncsu.edu). If you have questions about your rights as a participant or are concerned with your treatment throughout the research process, please contact the NC State University IRB Director at [IRB-Director@ncsu.edu](mailto:IRB-Director@ncsu.edu) or 919-515-8754.

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## CVM Community SOPs

The CVM Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) are available on the CVM community page. They provide detailed explanations of our various infection control procedures across the hospital that all faculty and staff are responsible for upholding. Click the button below to log in and be taken directly to the SOP page.

[CVM Standard Operating Procedures](#)

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Do you have an infection control topic you would like to see featured in a future newsletter? Click the button below to let us know! We want to hear from the CVM community on what topics are important to you!

[Recommendations For Newsletter Topics](#)

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This newsletter is created and published by Dr. Andrea Perkins and Carly Calabrese, in collaboration with the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine Infection Control Committee.



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