

One Health Committee Takes Shape

As the world emerged from the pandemic, the MVMA Board of Directors determined that the role veterinarians play in the health and wellness of Michiganders goes beyond zoonotic diseases like rabies. After much deliberation, the Board decided to sunset the long-standing Public Health Committee and over the ensuing months formed the One Health Committee. The Committee began organizing in late 2024 and is preparing to have a real impact on this strategic issue.

So, what is 'one health,' you might ask, and how is it different than how we used to think about public health? Here are a few definitions:

"Fulfilling society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy."

– *Institute of Medicine*

"Public health aims to provide maximum benefit for the largest number of people."

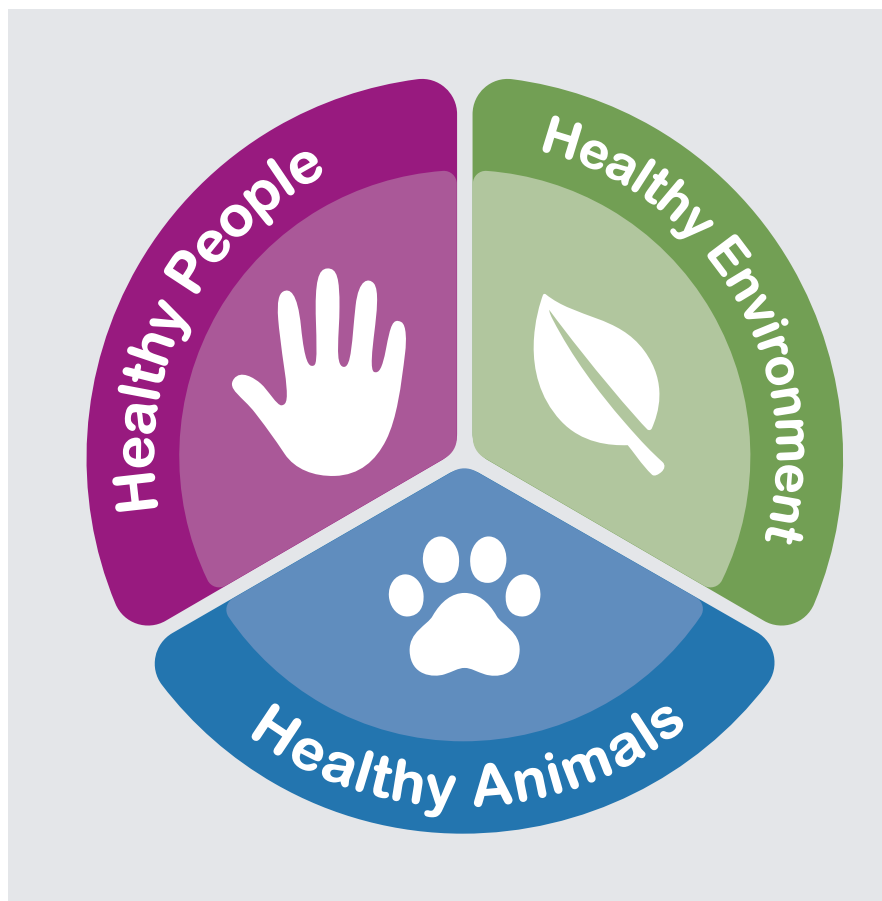
– *World Health Organization*

The American Public Health Association defines it as a "science-based, evidence-backed field striving to give everyone a safe place to live, learn, work and play."

A progressive and broad definition to be sure, but take a look at the definition of One Health.

One Health is an approach that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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The National Institutes of Health adds that it is "an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems."

What makes One Health different is that it *requires* a multidisciplinary approach. MVMA plans to be a partner in this approach to a healthy Michigan. The Committee, chaired by Dr. Megan Grant,

will focus its energy on helping MVMA members better understand how One Health impacts their practice, identifying resources for all Michigan veterinarians, and building partnerships with other disciplines. 🐾

Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to the members of the Public Health Committee for the years of dedicated service to MVMA and to protecting public health.