

## **USDA APHIS Veterinary Services One Health Coordination Center**

### **Introduction**

The term One Health (OH) has been defined many ways but at its core it is intended to foster a collaborative, systems approach to issues that intersect animal, human and environmental health. The interconnections of OH issues are often complex and difficult to recognize, but by bringing together multiple sectors, a clearer picture of the situation and ways to best address it evolve through shared learning and problem-solving.

Historical Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) programs, such as those for tuberculosis and brucellosis, have addressed the animal component of these zoonotic diseases. Veterinary Services recognized that it needed to expand its role in One Health to contribute our animal health expertise to address issues at the animal-human-environmental interface. The integration of that role resulted in the creation of the One Health Coordination Center (OHCC) in 2012.

The OHCC is part of Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services within VS. The guiding principle of the OHCC is to work with internal and external partners to address one health issues and strengthen interagency coordination. The OHCC's mission is to unify, clarify, and advance OH efforts so that VS assets can appropriately be applied to the ever increasing complex issues that occur at the intersection of animal, human and environmental health.

Functions of OHCC include providing subject matter expertise on OH issues in VS, building partnerships and providing VS employees tools to build better partnerships, ensuring that a OH perspective is included in VS' work, assisting VS with finding OH resources and opportunities, and supporting APHIS and USDA leadership's efforts to implement a "One Health" approach within USDA and across the US government.

One Health activities contribute to APHIS Goals 1 and 6:

- Goal 1. Prevent the entry and spread of agricultural pests and diseases by increased collaboration with other agencies to leverage infrastructures overseas to provide training and technical assistance on animal issues, including zoonotic diseases.
- Goal 6. Protect the health of U.S. agricultural resources, including addressing zoonotic disease issues and incidences, by implementing surveillance, preparedness and response, and control programs.

OHCC activities also support Goals 1-4 from *Veterinary Services: A New Perspective*

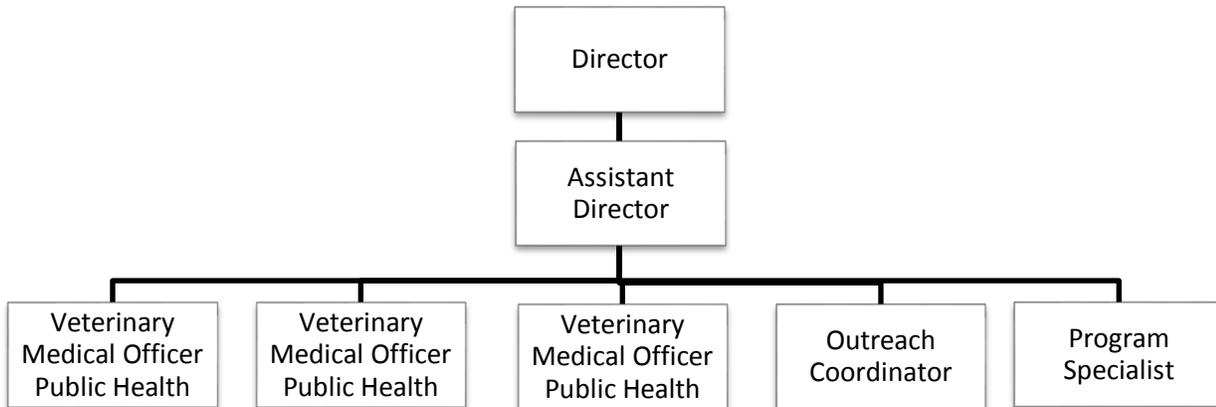
Goal 1: Culture

Goal 2: Collaborations and Partnerships

Goal 3: Competencies

Goal 4: Readiness and Response

## Office Structure



## Key Activity Areas

- Assists VS business units addressing the animal component of One Health issues that threaten animal health, public health, or the environment.
- Builds partnerships that bring together the strengths of multiple disciplines to find solutions that address complex problems at the animal-human-environmental interface (AHEI).
- Includes perspectives or input of One Health stakeholders when developing VS policies, strategic and operational plans, and procedures. Likewise, present the animal health perspective to our One Health stakeholders as they develop similar documents.
- Provides opportunities and resources for VS employees and other One Health stakeholders to improve their knowledge and skill set to address One Health issues.
- Supports APHIS and USDA leadership's efforts to implement a "One Health" approach within USDA and across the United States Government (USG) by providing and promoting the agriculture perspective and further safeguarding our agricultural resources through international capacity building efforts.
- Promotes One Health Core Competencies such as collaboration, diplomacy, external awareness, vision integration, management experience, building diverse teams, human capital management, strategic thinking, resource management, field/outbreak experience, integrity, interpersonal skills, communication, problem solving, flexibility, and self-development.