

TABLE 4.1
One Health System Contacts

Contact/ Resource	Workplace	Scope of care	Contact recommendations	Special considerations
Human health care professionals (MD/ DO, NP, PA, RN, LPN, etc.)	Clinics and hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnose, manage, prescribe, and treat health conditions and injuries. • The scope and degree of autonomy varies by profession and, in some cases, by state. • May be first contact for potential zoonotic disease exposure. 	Cases of zoonotic disease exposure, injury, or other illness where One Health management is indicated.	Obtain client consent before contacting. Be aware of HIPAA limitations on the sharing of medical information.
Local health jurisdictions	Local health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoonotic disease prevention and control • Vector prevention • Animal bite prevention and management • Toxic exposures • Food- and waterborne diseases • Natural disasters response^a 	Prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, animal bites, and other exposure to animals and animal products. ^a	Contact information for county health departments by state can be found here: https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory . In states with centralized public health, the state health department will be the primary contact.
State public health veterinarian (SPHV)	State health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoonotic disease prevention and control • Vector prevention • Animal bite prevention and management • Toxic exposures • Food and water -borne diseases • Natural disasters response^a 	Prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, animal bites, and other exposure to animals and animal products. ^a	Contact information for SPHVs can be found here: https://www.nasphv.org/Documents/StatePublicHealthVeterinariansByState.pdf .
State veterinarian	State agriculture departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent, detect, contain, and eliminate farmed animal diseases. • Disease surveillance for farmed animal diseases and those which may impact companion animals. • Regulate importation, transportation, and processing of animals. • Oversee emergency response to disease outbreaks. • Serve as liaison between state and federal agencies and local veterinarians to support natural disaster response. 	Reportable or zoonotic disease diagnosis, questions about animal transportation, and reporting sick or dead farmed animals, birds, or aquatics.	<p>Contact information for state veterinarians by state can be found here: https://www.usaha.org/upload/Federal%20and%20State%20Health/STATE_ANIMAL_HEALTH_OFFICIALS.pdf</p> <p>For a list of national reportable diseases, see: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/surveillance/reportable-diseases</p> <p>For a list of state reportable diseases, consult your State Department of Agriculture website.</p>

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TABLE 4.1, CONTINUED

One Health System Contacts

Contact/Resource	Workplace	Scope of care	Contact recommendations	Special considerations
Local animal control officer and humane law enforcement officer	Animal care and control agencies and/or municipal shelters and/or humane societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce state and local animal care and control laws and investigate complaints. Capture and contain dangerous, stray and unlicensed animals. Support natural disaster response. 	Cases of suspected cruelty and/or neglect (if not immediately life-threatening), lost, abandoned, or dangerous animals, and housing for displaced animals during a disaster.	<p>If the abuse is currently happening and/or an animal's life is in danger, calling 911 or the police is indicated.</p> <p>In some states, animal control laws and animal cruelty laws are managed by the municipal shelter; in other states, the animal cruelty laws are enforced by humane societies.</p> <p>Be aware of state mandatory reporting and immunity laws for veterinarians. For a table of laws by state, see https://www.animallaw.info/topic/table-veterinary-reporting-requirement-and-immunity-laws.</p>
Human health care social worker	Hospitals and health care agencies, government agencies, schools, community outreach agencies, clinics, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide psychosocial support, resources, and services to help individuals and families overcome challenges and address their needs.^b 	Challenges with physical and/or mental health, disability, family and home life issues, unemployment, addiction, and other issues.	Obtain client consent before contacting, unless the person is a danger to self or others. Be aware of HIPAA limitations on the sharing of medical information.

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TABLE 4.1, CONTINUED

One Health System Contacts

Contact/ Resource	Workplace	Scope of care	Contact recommendations	Special considerations
Veterinary social worker	Veterinary hospitals and clinics, colleges of veterinary medicine, animal-assisted therapeutic programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend to the welfare of humans and animals by focusing on four areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> animal-assisted interventions compassion fatigue and conflict management the link between human and animal violence animal-related grief and bereavement Support the veterinary health care team as well as families seeking veterinary care.^{c,d} 	Crisis support and intervention, ongoing counseling, education and training, conflict mediation, consultations on ethical decision making, liaison between family and veterinary team, end-of-life support and bereavement counseling. ^{c,d}	<p>Depending on the situation, may need to obtain client or staff member consent before contacting.</p> <p>The Veterinary Social Workers community does not yet have a clearinghouse for information on how to locate a veterinary social worker in a given area. The Center for Veterinary Social Work has a listserv. Interested people can join the listserv or pose a question to the listserv, and they will post the question. Email: vetsocialwork@utk.edu Phone: 865-755-8839</p>
Police	City or county police stations, jails, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce laws. Investigate crimes. Maintain public order. 	Imminent danger to a person's or animal's life.	For crises where someone's life is not in danger or a law has not been broken, it may be best to contact community-based services or other health professionals.
Child Protective Services	State or county agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate child abuse and/or neglect cases. 	Suspected child abuse and/or neglect.	<p>Some states require anyone suspecting child abuse/neglect to report it. Some states may also require veterinarians to report suspected abuse.</p> <p>For state and territory reporting information, see https://childcare.gov/health-and-safety-reporting.</p> <p>For general information, see https://childcare.gov/consumer-education/child-protective-services.</p>

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TABLE 4.1, CONTINUED
One Health System Contacts

Contact/ Resource	Workplace	Scope of care	Contact recommendations	Special considerations
Community-based alternatives to calling the police	N/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A list of resources, e.g., housing, mental health, domestic violence, elder resources, etc. are available by city here: https://dontcallthepolice.com/. 	No imminent danger to a person's or animal's life.	If a person or animal is in danger, calling 911 or the police is indicated. Be aware of state mandatory reporting and immunity laws for veterinarians.
211 number/app	N/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connects individuals and providers to resources such as housing, food, utility assistance, childcare, and transportation. Free and confidential. Available in all 50 states. 		

- a NASPHV. About State Public Health Veterinarians. [nasphv.org](https://www.nasphv.org/aboutPHVs.html). N.d. Available at: <https://www.nasphv.org/aboutPHVs.html>. Accessed November 7, 2024.
- b NASW. About Social Workers. [socialworkers.org](https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Facts/Social-Workers#:~:text=Social%20workers%20help%20individuals%2C%20families,social%20and%20community%20service%20directors). N.d. Available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Facts/Social-Workers#:~:text=Social%20workers%20help%20individuals%2C%20families,social%20and%20community%20service%20directors>. Accessed November 7, 2024.
- c Center for Veterinary Social Work. What is veterinary social work? vetsocialwork.tennessee.edu. N.d. Available at: <https://vetsocialwork.tennessee.edu/>. Accessed November 7, 2024.
- d The Ohio State University. What is a veterinary social worker? [vmc.vet.osu.edu](https://vmc.vet.osu.edu/resources/what-veterinary-social-worker). N.d. Available at: <https://vmc.vet.osu.edu/resources/what-veterinary-social-worker>. Accessed November 7, 2024.

The 2025 AAHA One Health Guidelines are available at aaha.org/onehealthpartnerships.

These guidelines were prepared by a Task Force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and were subjected to a formal peer-review process. This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting. ©2025 AAHA.

