



# SAVING LIVES BY TAKING A **ONE HEALTH** APPROACH

Connecting human, animal, and environmental health

More than half of all infections that people can get can be spread by animals. Diseases like rabies, *Salmonella*, and West Nile virus infections are examples of zoonotic diseases (or zoonoses)—diseases that can be shared between animals and people.

Every year, tens of thousands of Americans will get sick from diseases spread between animals and people. Animals can sometimes serve as early warning signs of potential illness in people. For example, birds often die of West Nile virus before people get sick with West Nile virus fever.

National Center for  
**EMERGING and ZOOONOTIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES**  
One Health Office



# HUMAN, ANIMAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ARE **LINKED**



Cows graze next to a lettuce field. Cows can carry *E. coli* but still look healthy.



*E. coli* from cow manure in the nearby farm can contaminate the lettuce field.



People eat contaminated lettuce and can become infected with *E. coli*. Serious illness or sometimes death can result.

CDC's **One Health Office** recognizes that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

A One Health approach encourages collaborative efforts of many experts (like disease detectives, laboratorians, physicians, and veterinarians) working across human, animal, and environmental health to improve the health of people and animals, including pets, livestock, and wildlife.



## WHAT THE ONE HEALTH OFFICE IS DOING IN THE U.S.

- Working with multiple partners to **educate rural youth** in agricultural organizations like 4-H and the Future Farmers of America about preventing the spread of diseases shared between people and animals like zoonotic influenza viruses. These newly formed One Health teams have reached thousands of young people and their families in states across rural America.
  - One important outcome was the rapid response to an outbreak of flu in people who had attended agricultural fairs in Ohio and Michigan. These new One Health teams helped **pinpoint the source of the illness**—infected swine exhibited at the fairs.
- Responding to **outbreaks** and **public health emergencies**, such as examining the risk of Ebola and Zika viruses to pets and other animals.
- Protecting Americans by preventing **diseases they can get from their pets** like *Salmonella* infection and rat bite fever.
  - Due to an increasing number of outbreaks, the One Health Office is leading the **Zoonoses Education Coalition**. This public-private partnership is developing evidence-based recommendations to prevent diseases for pet owners, breeders, and stores.
  - These recommendations were used during an **outbreak of Seoul virus** that was spread to people by pet rats.
  - The One Health Office shares tips about **how to stay healthy** while enjoying pets on CDC's **Healthy Pets, Healthy People** website.

