The WSAVA One Health Committee Mission Statement:
To ensure the prominence of the small companion animal-human interface in the global One Health agenda.

One Health is simply defined as a coordinated approach to human and animal health care against the background of the shared environment in which humans and animals live.

The concept of One Health is said to be more readily understood and promoted by veterinarians than human health professionals; this likely stems from the broad training in public health that is a core part of veterinary training. Whenever possible, the One Health Committee has sought to take the message of One Health to our human healthcare colleagues and emphasize that animals are often an integral part of the family unit that must be considered in decisions about the family’s health and welfare.

16 Simple Questions
Our latest One Health Committee project has been the preparation of a series of 16 simple One Health frequently asked questions (FAQs) designed to be of value to both the human physician and the veterinarian working with families and their pets. We hope that the answers to these questions will be of interest to both of our target audiences. Some questions have been deliberately selected to correct common misconceptions held by our human medical colleagues—for example, that pregnant women should rehome their cats during pregnancy to avoid contracting toxoplasmosis, or that head lice or pinworm are diseases that may be transmitted by pet animals.

We are delighted that Clinician’s Brief and the Global Brief edition of Clinician’s Brief will feature 2 of these questions each month in a new column directed toward client communication—aptly named Talking Points.

The Human Sector
As a true One Health exercise, this endeavor received attention also in the human healthcare journal American Family Physician, which recently published a companion review article based on these short pieces, enabling us to take our One Health message to an audience of 180,000 human healthcare professionals. Key messages focused on including questions about pets and animal exposure during consultations and in clinical history and emphasized that human physicians and veterinarians should feel confident about working together for the benefit of the human and animal family unit.

Reference

THE WSAVA ONE HEALTH COMMITTEE
- For further information about the One Health committee, see wsava.org/educational/one-health-committee
- For questions and comments about the upcoming FAQs, email editor@cliniciansbrief.com