One Welfare Conference Report

Richard Rusk, DVM, MD
Co-Chair Planning Committee
The Conference

- September 26-28 2016
- 2 days of speakers and break out groups
- 1 day Workplace Psychological First Aid
The Conference

• 150 participants
• 23 speakers
• 8 poster presentations
• 6 Industry Booths
• 9 primary sponsors
The Conference

• Key sponsor NFAHWC
• Manitoba Government
• CFIA, PHAC, CAHC, Growing Forward
• Canadian Red Cross, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Manitoba Pork Council
• SafeWork Manitoba, Dairy Farmers Canada, Dairy Farmers Manitoba, Canada Pork Council, MB Beef, MB Chicken Producers, MB Egg Farmers, MVMA, MB Medicine Faculty, NCCID
The Conference

• Object:
  – Explored the topics where animal welfare intersects with human health and mental health
  – The conference was designed to address the many facets of managing complex social situations where the welfare of both the humans and the animals involved are carefully considered in a positive solution
One Welfare Definition

• “Through a ‘One Health, One Welfare’ lens, the increased empathy, compassion, and stewardship of early career veterinary professionals will undoubtedly lead to improved animal and human welfare, and thus improved community health.”¹

• Is this an approach we should have for all health professionals?

Topics

- Hoarding – object and animal
- Agrarian imperative - Agriculture psychosocial health
- Professional burn out
- PTSD secondary to traumatic work events in the agricultural industry and first responders
- Remote community animal welfare
Topics

• LINK program for the veterinary profession
• Multi-agency programs
• Proactive industry initiatives
• Positive effects of pet ownership
• One Welfare educational programs
  – Australia and WCVM
• Psychological First Aid course
Topics

• General Roméo Dallaire keynote
• Gala dinner
• Canadian Museum of Human Rights
• “Mental Health support is a human right”
• Challenged government to be leaders in improving resources for mental health programs
Conference Feedback

- Survey response – 33% of participants
- Strong support for ongoing education around topics in One Welfare – 90%
- Strong support to repository for information
- Strong support for another conference
How would you describe your participation at the International One Welfare Conference? (check all that apply)

- Conference attendee: 70.0%
- Conference presenter: 10.0%
- Part of the planning committee: 20.0%
- Psychological First Aid Course attendee: 10.0%

How would you describe your organization? (check all that apply)

- Human Health/Wellbeing
- Animal Health/Welfare
- Government
- NGO/Non-profit
- Private/Industry
- Academia/Research
What type of governance is required / who should lead the ongoing promotion and facilitation of One Welfare initiatives?

“The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council with active participation of a local event committee appears to be the right group that already exists rather than creating a new governance structure.”

“CVOs and CMOHs should take a lead. NFAHW Council could be a vehicle for creating a working group.”
Conference Feedback

• Main themes to focus on:
  – PFA
  – Effect of animal welfare on human health
  – Importance of domestic violence and animal welfare linkage
Future Steps

• Dr Anne Fawcett – One Welfare in Australia in discussions with Sydney Veterinary University to hold second conference there in 2 years time

• Conference abstract and executive summary still pending
Thank you for your time

Questions?