



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Veterinary Professionals: Local Care, Global Responsibility

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) will formally recognize the local and global role of veterinary professionals during **Animal Health Week (AHW), October 1-7, 2006**.

Animal Health Week is a national public awareness campaign organized by the CVMA and hosted by veterinarians across Canada. The 2006 campaign highlights the excellent work of veterinary professionals at home and around the world and recognizes their contributions to animal and human health, animal welfare, and food safety. The official campaign slogan, **"Veterinary Professionals: Local Care, Global Responsibility"** was submitted by Dr. Kelli Mulley of Victoria, BC.

"If you ask a random person what a veterinarian does, that person will probably tell you that community veterinarians and animal health technicians are responsible for the health and welfare of pets and farm animals," says Dr. Kathleen Cavanagh, practicing veterinarian and educational consultant from Ridgeville, Ontario. "However, many people are not aware of just how broad the scope of veterinary medicine truly is."

Right now, in addition to treating family pets and farm animals, there are veterinarians participating in online emerging disease report group discussions to track disease outbreaks, think avian influenza, globally. Other veterinary professionals are at work inspecting meat and animal products, and implementing farm-to-table disease control measures to protect public health and help prevent food-borne illness. Military veterinarians posted overseas are doing their part to care for animals in need, and help to ensure the safety of food supplies for the troops, while some veterinarians are carrying out groundbreaking research to develop new medicines, vaccines, and approaches to diagnostics and therapeutics. Many of their important new findings will lead to better healthcare in humans after first being proven in animals.

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During Animal Health Week, many veterinary clinics across Canada will be hosting open houses, holding photo contests, clinic tours and more. Some veterinarians will be visiting school children to talk about animal health and careers in veterinary medicine. Animal owners are invited to contact their local veterinary clinic to become informed of AHW events taking place in their community.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association is the national body representing and serving the interests of the veterinary profession in Canada. Since 1985, the CVMA and Canadian veterinarians have been observing Animal Health Week. The goal of this annual campaign is to promote animal health, veterinary medicine and responsible animal ownership within Canadian communities.