

What is the UK One Health Co-ordination Group?

Overview

The UK One Health Co-ordination Group (UKOHCG) exists to improve liaison and collaboration between the UK veterinary, human healthcare and environmental sectors towards One Health aims.

Through coordinated communications and cross-promotion, the group identifies and promotes existing examples of effective One Health initiatives and projects in the UK, ensuring broad reach and impact through the dissemination of knowledge and experience and by championing local and national projects to help replicate their successes across the UK. By bringing the relevant stakeholders together, it provides a platform for new ideas to flourish and for new connections to be fostered.

The UKOHCG was formed in 2017 following a recommendation in the Vet Futures Action Plan to establish a means of linking the leading organisations in the veterinary, medical, and environmental fields in the UK and utilising their networks to disseminate information, research, and tools to foster collaboration in practice, education, and policy.

Members

The UKOHCG is composed of agreed representatives from the veterinary, human healthcare and environmental sectors, including:

- Animal Health and Welfare Board England (AHWBE)
- British Dental Association (BDA)
- British Medical Association (BMA)
- British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA)
- British Veterinary Association (BVA)
- British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA)
- Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
- Royal Society of Biology (RSB)
- Royal Society of Medicine (RSM)
- Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH)
- Veterinary Public Health Association (VPHA)
- The Wildlife Trusts
- Zoological Society of London

The role of chair and secretariat is rotated around the groups and is currently held by RSM. For more information about BVA's role in the group, contact Megan Knowles-Bacon megankb@bva.co.uk

Work and meetings

The group recognises the definition of One Health given by [the One Health Commission](#):

“One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and trans-disciplinary approach - working at local, regional, national, and global levels - to achieve optimal health (and well-being) outcomes recognizing the interconnections between people, animals, plants and their shared environment.”

The group meets twice a year for face to face discussions and maintain communication through online meetings and an email list. Members also work together on individual projects throughout the year. The group does not speak as the UKOHCG in communications - individual organisations retain their own identity in communications, with the flexibility to choose to support initiatives on a case by case basis.

A notable piece of work is [the BVA One Health in Action Report](#). This was led by BVA and contains case studies from many group members, who were also helpful in promoting the report when launched in 2019.