


# Six-Step Framework


## for Companion Animal Public Health Collaboration


Pets are often closely integrated into our households and daily routines. However, this proximity can put both humans and animals at risk of **zoonotic disease transmission**.


This framework showcases the collaboration strength between commercial laboratories and large veterinary hospital networks for **One Health** reporting efforts and how they assess and mitigate zoonotic disease transmission risk during public health emergencies.


**By following these steps, One Health organizations and the veterinary field can help safeguard human and animal health.**


- **1 Establish Collaboration Protocols**

Develop formal agreements and communication channels between commercial laboratories and large veterinary hospital networks to ensure cooperation and rapid exchange. This includes defining roles, responsibilities and data-sharing protocols.
- **2 Integrated Surveillance Systems**

Implement a surveillance system that allows for real-time collection and analysis of data from veterinary hospitals and diagnostic laboratories. Utilize diagnostic tools and technology to monitor and detect zoonotic diseases in pet populations, including outbreak warning signs.
- **3 Cross-Disciplinary Cooperation**

Encourage collaboration and relationship-building among veterinary and human health professionals to ensure rapid sharing of knowledge between private, public and academic sectors during public health threats.
- **4 Build Expertise**

Build public health expertise with roles such as veterinary epidemiologists within the private veterinary sector at organizations like VCA and Antech® to facilitate expanded One Health surveillance.
- **5 Public Health Communication Strategies**

Develop communication strategies to inform the public and relevant stakeholders of zoonotic disease risks and solution measures. This includes regular updates, press releases and public health advisories for transparency and trust.
- **6 Continuous Evaluation and Improvement**

Use feedback to evaluate cooperation between commercial laboratories and veterinary hospitals. Use surveillance system and response activities data to identify areas for improvement and any protocol and strategy updates needed. This ensures the framework is adaptive and resilient during public health challenges.

**VCA and Antech's Six-Step Framework for Companion Animal Public Health Collaboration demonstrates how scaling One Health partnerships coupled with science can help support the future of veterinary medicine to achieve our Purpose: A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS.**