

What do we mean by “One Welfare”?

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The term “one welfare”, inspired by “one health”, is used to emphasize the many links between animal welfare and human welfare, and to acknowledge that both depend on a well-functioning ecological environment. As examples: (1) the welfare of food-producing animals is often crucial for the owners’ livelihood and productivity; (2) the prosperity and mental well-being of animal keepers are important to permit good animal care and to prevent abuse and neglect of animals; (3) the welfare of working and assistance animals is important for their ability to provide services to their owners; and (4) as acknowledged by “one health”, the physical health of people and animals are inter-connected in many ways. Moreover, both human and animal welfare depend strongly on the flourishing of the ecological systems in which they live. “One welfare” is thus a unifying concept for different areas of research and action, and a call to consider human welfare, animal welfare and the environment together.

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