

Meta Description: Discover how collaborative care models in veterinary medicine enhance animal welfare, improve public health, and integrate One Health principles.

Collaborative Care Models in Veterinary Medicine for Enhanced Animal Welfare



Collaborative care models in veterinary medicine are transforming how veterinarians, animal owners, and related professionals work together to enhance animal welfare. These models promote interdisciplinary teamwork to address complex issues in animal health, welfare, and public health, aligning with the principles of One Health. At the [European Board of Veterinary Specialisation \(EBVS\)](#), we recognise the importance of such frameworks in advancing the standards of veterinary care across Europe.

What Are Collaborative Care Models in Veterinary Medicine?

Collaborative care models bring together veterinarians, [veterinary specialists](#), animal owners, and sometimes public health officials to provide integrated and comprehensive care. These

models rely on shared decision-making, interdisciplinary expertise, and communication to ensure that animal health and welfare are prioritised.

Key aspects of collaborative care include:

Interdisciplinary Approach

[Veterinary specialists](#) from different fields work together to address complex health and welfare challenges, from infectious disease management to behavioural therapy for companion animals.

Owner Engagement

Empowering animal owners with knowledge and involving them in care decisions.

One Health Integration

Addressing broader issues such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and public health through coordinated efforts between veterinary and human health professionals.

Example: Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance Through Collaboration

[Antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\)](#) is a pressing global issue that requires a unified approach across disciplines. Collaborative care models enable veterinarians to work closely with microbiologists, pharmacologists, and public health specialists to establish responsible antimicrobial usage guidelines. This approach safeguards animal welfare and contributes to human health by reducing the risk of resistant pathogens.



Benefits of Collaborative Care Models

1. Enhanced Animal Welfare

Collaboration improves the quality of care by leveraging the expertise of multiple veterinary specialists. For example, integrating dermatologists, nutritionists, and behavioural specialists can address multifaceted issues in companion animals, ensuring a higher quality of life.

2. Improved Public Health Outcomes

Collaboration strengthens One Health initiatives by addressing zoonotic diseases and food safety. Veterinarians work with epidemiologists to monitor and control outbreaks of diseases like avian influenza, protecting both animal and human populations.

3. Efficient Use of Resources

Collaborative models reduce redundancies and optimise care delivery by pooling expertise and sharing responsibilities. This is particularly critical in rural or underserved areas, where access to veterinary specialists may be limited.

4. Greater Sustainability in Agriculture

Collaborative care models benefit farm animals through sustainable practices that improve welfare and productivity. This includes veterinarians advising on humane housing systems and preventive healthcare that minimises the need for medical interventions.

Challenges in Implementing Collaborative Care Models

While the benefits are clear, implementing collaborative care models requires overcoming several challenges:

Communication Barriers

Effective collaboration depends on clear and consistent communication among all stakeholders.

Workforce Shortages

A shortage of veterinary specialists, particularly in rural areas, limits the feasibility of these models in certain regions.

Cost Considerations

Collaborative care often involves multiple professionals, which may affect costs for animal owners. However, the long-term benefits often outweigh the initial expenses.

Scientific Evidence Supporting Collaborative Care

Studies demonstrate that interdisciplinary approaches improve health outcomes in both humans and animals. For instance, [a study in the *Journal of Veterinary Sciences*](#) highlighted how collaborative models reduced hospitalisation times and improved recovery rates in animals with complex conditions.

Moreover, [research by the World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) underscores the importance of One Health initiatives in combating zoonotic diseases, a cornerstone of collaborative care models.



How EBVS Supports Collaborative Care

As a certifying body for veterinary specialists across 38 disciplines, the [European Board of Veterinary Specialisation \(EBVS\)](#) is pivotal in fostering collaboration. We provide frameworks for continuous professional development, supporting specialists to work in interdisciplinary teams.

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Our efforts also include promoting awareness among policymakers and the public about the vital contributions of veterinary specialists to societal issues like food safety, public health, and sustainable agriculture.

Join the Movement Towards Collaborative Veterinary Care

Collaborative care models are essential for advancing animal welfare and addressing broader societal challenges. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and integrating One Health principles, the veterinary profession can deliver comprehensive solutions that benefit animals, humans, and the environment.

At the [European Board of Veterinary Specialisation](https://www.ebvs.eu), we are committed to supporting this evolution in veterinary medicine. Visit www.ebvs.eu to learn more about our role in promoting veterinary collaboration and specialisation across Europe.