US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Transforming National Veterinary Services (VS) to Institutionalize One Health

Description	The Veterinary Services (VS) branch of the United States Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) has enacted an initiative (VS2015) to streamline and retool existing VS operations. Within the initiative, VS identified a special group of priority issues to be addressed in 2011 and 2012, including One Health. In addition to integrating One Health initiatives into daily VS activities, VS plans to continue to build new collaborations and partnerships in the One Health community. Short-term projects have been developed with One Health partners, and more are being encouraged. VS also created a pilot One Health Coordination Office to manage activities and be a point of contact for VS personnel and One Health partners. The group began its work in January 2011 and has established multidisciplinary teams of VS personnel to help develop operational, communication, and training plans for One Health.
Purpose	As the government's animal health authority, APHIS VS will contribute expertise, infrastructure, networks, and systems to partner effectively in a multi-disciplinary, multi-level (local, state, national, and international) collaborative approach to promote healthy animals, people, ecosystems, and society.
Scope	National – United States.
Primary Funders	VS relies on federal funding from United States Department of Agriculture. The additional funds needed for implementing the VS One Health strategic plan have not been confirmed, but there is interest and support from the US Secretary of Agriculture. Resource shortages (personnel, funding) are a definite obstacle.
Participants & Key Collaborators	Other government agencies, One Health programs, and non-governmental organizations.
Definition of One Health	The convergence of people, animals, and our environment has created a powerful dynamic through which the health of animals is inextricably linked with the health of people and the viability of ecosystems.
Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy	There is an approved strategic plan for implementing One Health activities within APHIS VS, including specific goals, timelines for action, and indicators of success. If a permanent APHIS VS One Health Coordination Office is established, one of its primary responsibilities would be monitoring the implementation and progress of the strategic plan.
Sources of Information	VS2015 One Health Strategic Plan: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/about_aphis/programs_offices/veterinary_services/downloads/vs2015/one_health_final.pdf
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