

2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families Coalition Update



October 2016

“Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.”

-Helen Keller

On August 30th, 2016 the **Healthy Pets, Healthy Families (HPHF)** Coalition met for their 19th meeting with over 25 people in attendance!

The meeting started with Veterinary Public Health (VPH) updates, which included an announcement that the 2014-2015 Animal Disease Surveillance Report is completed and pending internal review prior to publication. The 2016 Veterinary Outreach Manual continues to be distributed among 477 vet clinics within Los Angeles County (LAC). VPH is conducting a needs assessment survey at LAC's Public Health flu clinics, from October to January 2017 within 5 zip codes of LAC to determine barriers receiving pet care.

Did you know that **One Health Day** is November 3rd? The goal is to raise global awareness about One Health interactions and to engage as many people as possible from multi-disciplines such as veterinary health, human health and environmental health. If you would like to participate or have ideas, please feel free to share with VPH staff.

As we wind down the 1st half of the year with obesity prevention, VPH completed their 1st Obesity Report, which is pending internal review. Moving forward into the 2nd half of the year, HPHF emphasizes the bite prevention focus area and the development of a bite prevention focused report. VPH's Masters of Public Health (MPH) student Leah Streb, presented *Healthy Pets mean Healthy Families: A Community Needs Assessment on the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Towards Pet Care in Los Angeles County*. The findings in the study demonstrated that survey participants believed spay and neuter was important, with almost all of the participants' dogs/cats spayed or neutered. The study also indicated the need for educating the community about vaccine preventable diseases, pet obesity, disaster preparedness and parasite prevention.

Jared Lancer, Executive Director for Watts Learning Center (WLC) was HPHF's guest speaker with the topic of *Substantive Learning for every child: What will count as evidence?* Jared contacted VPH during the Spring 2015 semester because many students were addressing stray dogs as a community issue and he wanted to collaborate with VPH to design methods and solutions for this issue, which was a science project for many students. Stray dogs wasn't the only issue that arose from the children's project— dog bites, neighborhood safety and injury prevention were addressed during the project as well. Jared advocates that by creating organizational strategies, it will open the learning experience for the children so that they can learn how to be an advocate in their communities.

After the presentation, we continued our ongoing Focus Area tabletop discussions, revamping our 2016 goals and updates. The HPHF goals that are in place for 2016 helps VPH to enact on interventions such as an obesity calendar for families and their pets, as well as Secondhand Smoke surveys for veterinarians that will help to track health trends in animals. With these goals, we are creating programs that will improve both animal and human health by 2020!



Guest Speaker **Jared Lancer**, presented to the HPHF audience.

Don't hesitate, *participate!*

Get involved with making a difference in your community!

Our next HPHF Coalition meeting is **Tuesday October 18th** from 9:30 -12:00 PM at 5555 Ferguson dr. Commerce, CA 90022 (in the auditorium)

If you're interested in helping VPH reach our goals for 2016, please contact us at vet@ph.lacounty.gov

Focus Area Updates

The mission of Healthy Pets, Healthy Families is “to use the connections between human and animal health in order to promote a healthy community.” While every group works independently and has their own set of objectives and goals, below are a few highlights of the great progress each focus area group has made thus far.

Bite Prevention:

- Continuing educational outreach to Watts Learning Center, a local charter elementary school, to promote bite prevention and pet safety. The work group strategized to align the school’s standards and objectives with VPH’s bite prevention goals.

Disaster Preparedness:

- Continuing the goal of pet owners in LA County developing evacuation plans that includes their pets, the work group reviewed a draft of the *Quick Tips for Evacuation Planning*. The work group also discussed strategies to deliver the messages as well as potential branding issues.

Obesity Prevention:

- Continuing the goal of preventing pet obesity and increasing physical activity among families, the focus area group reviewed a draft of the 2017 HPHF Calendar. The work group decided on specific pictures, formats and messages that will be implemented in the calendar. The calendar will be accessible online only.

Secondhand Smoke:

- One goal of the focus group is to survey vets in LA County about potential injuries or diseases they have seen in their patients due to tobacco ingestion or inhalation. The work group brainstormed ideas on developing surveys that will align with existing hypothesis and questions. The work group also announced that the Secondhand Smoke handout has been updated and is accessible on VPH’s webpage.

Spay & Neuter:

- To reduce overpopulation of cats in Los Angeles County, the focus area group discussed possible new locations for a spay and neuter event, including Baldwin Park Animal Shelter. The work group brainstormed additional resources that can be incorporated in the event and VPH will contact the potential partners for follow-up at a later time.

Vaccine-Preventable Disease:

- To promote pet owner– veterinarian relationships, the focus area group discussed ideas of how to distribute educational outreach materials and lists of vaccination clinics to the community in the Antelope Valley area. The work group also plans to develop animal vaccination badges for scouts of boys/girls clubs as well as conduct TV and radio interviews about pet vaccinations.

Zoonoses & Parasite Prevention:

- The focus area group continued to work on their objective of developing social media messages related to different zoonotic diseases and post the messages on specific health-related dates. The focus area group discussed the posting of previous messages around World Mosquito Day and brainstormed ideas for future messages that will be posted for World Rabies Day (Sept. 28th).

Pet Health Reminders:

September was **National Responsible Dog Ownership Month**

September was **National Disaster Preparedness Month**

September 28th was **World Rabies Day**

October is **National Animal Safety and Prevention Month**

October is **National Service Dog Month**

October is **Adopt a Shelter Dog Month**

October 1-8 was **National Walk Your Dog Week**