

# MPH Defense: Resuming Essential Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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# APEs

- ***Maintaining essential veterinary services in a public One Health clinic during a pandemic***
- ***Maintaining essential animal sheltering services during a pandemic***

# Agenda

- *Brief Explanation of COVID-19*
- *Relevant Background on Animal Sheltering*
- *Relevant Background on One Health clinics*
- *Learning Objectives*
- *Animal Sheltering*
  - *project description*
- *One Health*
  - *project description*
- *Conclusions*
- *Discussion*
- *Competencies*

# COVID-19 Explanation

- Coronavirus
- Lipid envelope
- Spread via respiratory secretions
- Clinical Latency
- 3.2 M deaths worldwide



# COVID-19 Explanation: Response

- Social distancing
- Stay-at-home
- Increased sanitation efforts

# Background on One Health Clinics

- Interdisciplinary endeavor
- Knights Landing – 2010



- Improves Human & Veterinary Outcomes

# Background on One Health Clinics

- Services offered
  - Veterinary
  - Medical
  - Social



Vet.upenn.edu

# Background on One Health Clinics: Kansas City

- Community Veterinary Outreach
    - Canada
- 
- The logo for Community Veterinary Outreach is a stylized cross composed of four L-shaped blocks. The top-left and bottom-right blocks are a darker blue, while the top-right and bottom-left blocks are a lighter blue.
- Community  
Veterinary  
Outreach
- Dr. Lara Plass, DVM
  - Hope Faith Rescue Mission





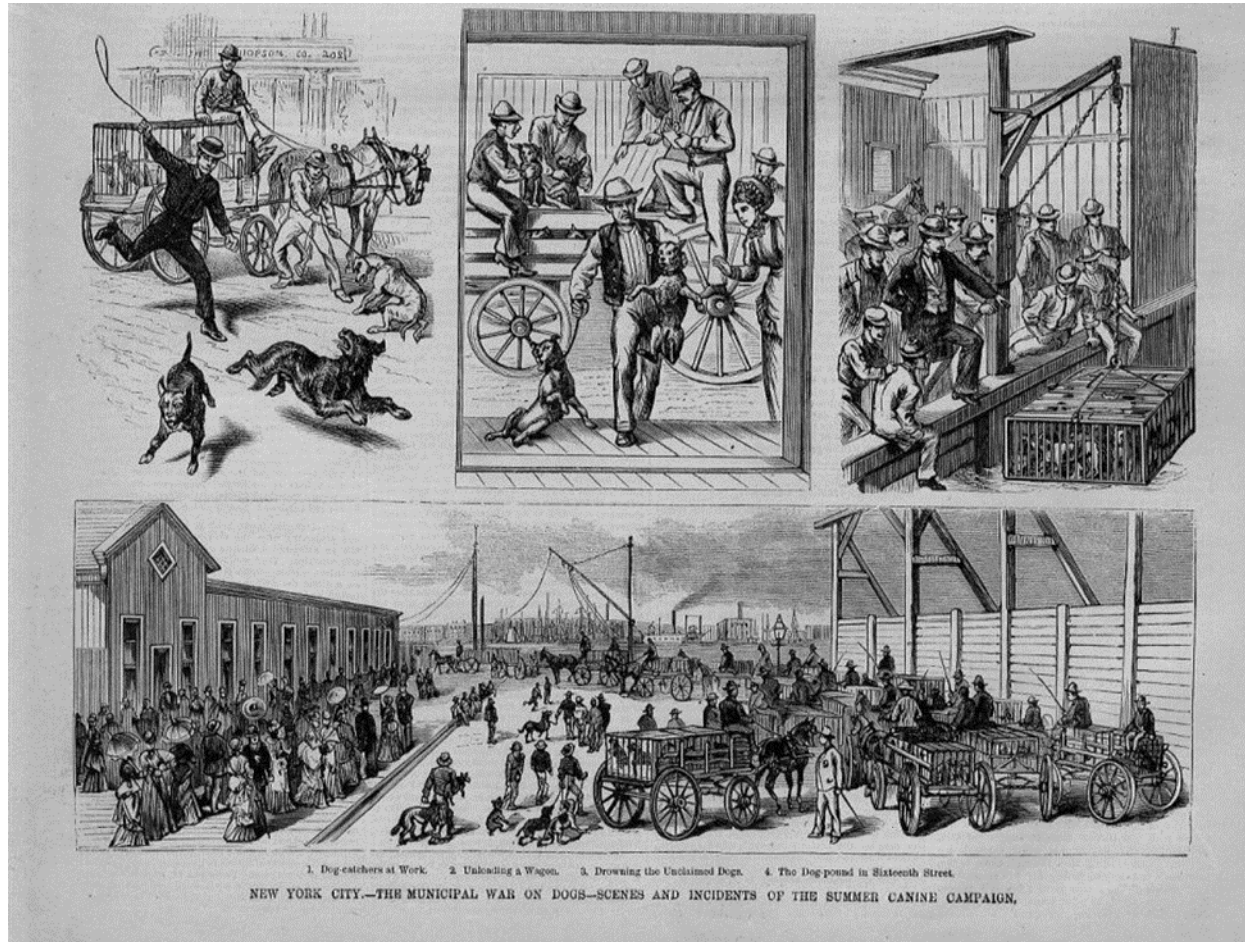
# Background on One Health Clinics: Response To COVID

- Suspension of services
- Vulnerable clientele

# Background on Animal Sheltering

- 6.5 M Animals Annually
- First Established for Domestic Animals and Children
  - Working animals (eg horses)
- In US, became municipal in late 1800s

# Background on Animal Sheltering



Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper July 1877

# Background on Animal Sheltering

- 1870s private organizations include dogs to their missions
- Until 1970s, these were “pounds”
- Spay/Neuter
- Leads to other increased efforts in care, including public veterinary services

# Background on Animal Sheltering: Prairie Paws

- Executive Director, Melissa Reed – Preceptor
- Ottawa, KS
- 1000 animals
- Private non-profit
  - County contract

# Background on Animal Sheltering: Prairie Paws

- In 2014, in danger of closing
- Partner with KSU
- Innovations
  - Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)
  - Pet foodbank
  - Public Services (eg microchip)



# Background on Animal Sheltering: Prairie Paws Response to COVID

- Temporary Closure
- She Inquired About Support to Resume Services
- Also, to provide some public services (eg microchip clinic)



# APE Learning Objectives

- Understanding of COVID
- Up to date on COVID mitigation best practices
- Communication
- Veterinarians as public health champions in non-clinical settings
  - Member of a community





# APE Learning Objectives: Animal Sheltering

- Create a written standard operating protocol for an animal shelter specifically addressing precautions related to COVID-19 (PPE, distancing, capacity, client flow, etc)
- Research best practices for animal facilities during COVID-19
- Create and present training for shelter staff and stakeholders regarding COVID precautions

# APE Learning Objectives: One Health

- Mastery of transmission and prevention of COVID-19
- Evaluating population needs
- Research best practices for One Health and outdoor public activities during COVID-19
- Contribute to written standard operating protocol for One Health public event
- Interdisciplinary negotiating
  - Sites
  - Partners

# APE: Animal Sheltering

- Maintaining essential Animal Sheltering Services During a Pandemic



# APE: Animal Sheltering

- Temporary Closure Due To County Order
- Plan To Safely Reopen and Resume Services

# APE: Animal Sheltering

- Weekly International Conference Calls
  - OSMA





# APE: Animal Sheltering

- OSMA Toolkit
  - Protocols
  - Presentations
  - Signage

# APE: Animal Sheltering - Protocols

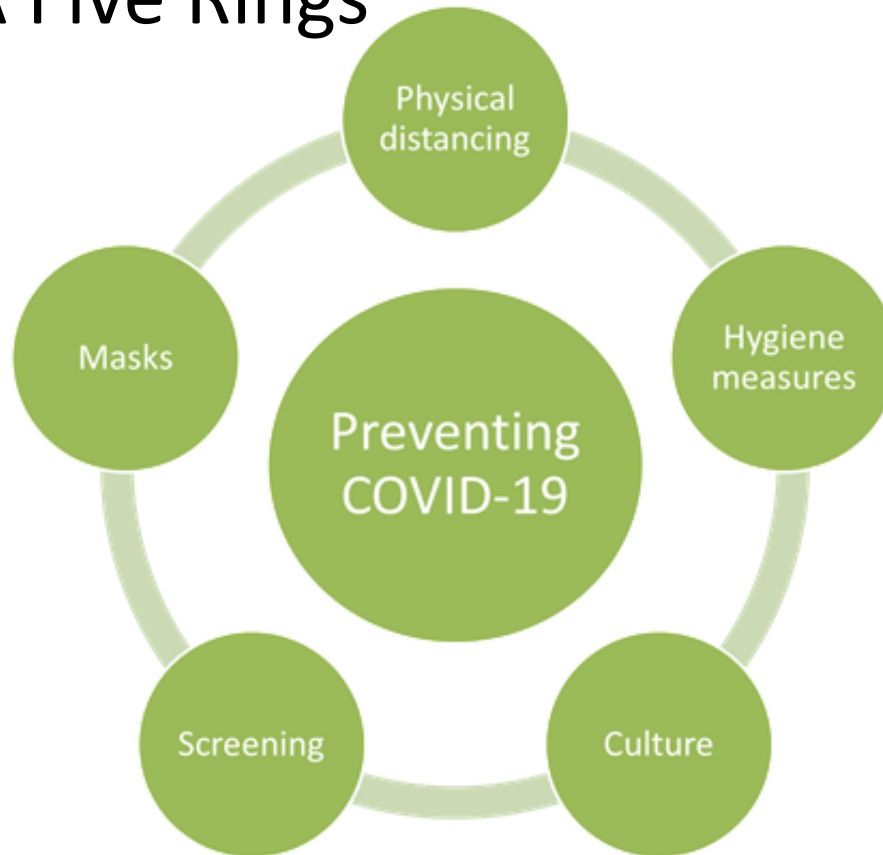
## 1: Essential Services – Keep Open to Fullest Extent Possible

Department	Service	
Foster and Rescue Programs	Virtual Behaviour and Training	
	Telemedicine	
	Urgent Care Foster Support	
Public Programs	Food Bank	
	Pet/Guardian Parent Support Network	
Public Veterinary Service	Euthanasia	
	Preventive Wellness Telemedicine	
	Shelter Outreach Telemedicine	
Shelter	Foster Care	
	Animal Care	
	Behaviour and Training Support	
	Admissions, Urgent	
	Veterinary Care	

- Rank Services
  - Animal Care
  - Adoption via ZOOM

# APE: Animal Sheltering - Protocols

- OSMA Five Rings

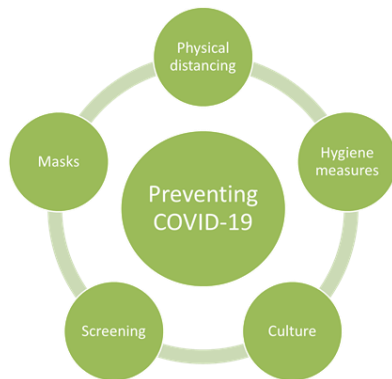


<https://www.ontariosheltermedicine.org/covid-19-recovery-toolkit/>



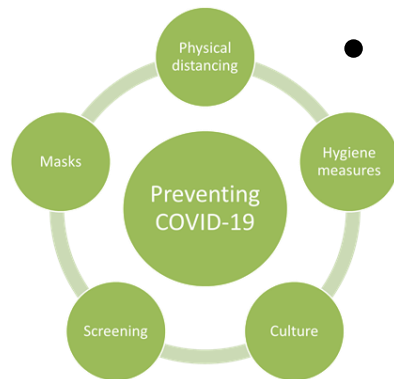
# APE: Animal Sheltering - Protocols

- Screening
  - Survey
    - Have you been exposed to a person confirmed with COVID-19?
    - Are you experiencing any of the following: fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, sore throat, loss of taste/smell?
    - Have you travelled out of state within the past 7 days?



# APE: Animal Sheltering - Protocols

- Hygiene
  - MASKS!
  - Cleaning Commonly Touched Surfaces
  - Animal Care Protocols Sufficient
- Manager



# APE: Animal Sheltering – Hygiene Protocols

## PPAS COVID Hygiene Protocols

*July, 2020*

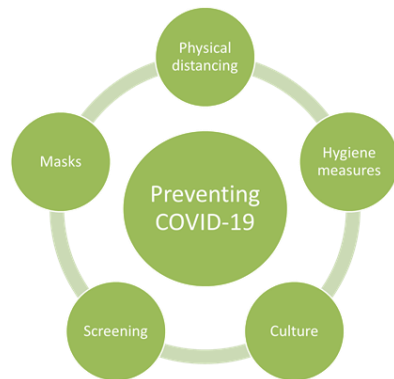
Maintaining consistent and thorough personal hygiene and cleaning practices while at work is a way to ensure that we are doing all we can to keep ourselves and each other safe.

### **Hygiene Practices for Staff and Volunteers**

- ☐ Wear a clean face covering (MASK) at all times while on PPAS property, and while on the clock off property (e.g. transport, supply pickup, TNR, etc.)
- ☐ Wash hand thoroughly (♪ *Happy Birthday* ♪) and frequently (when soap, water, and paper towels are not accessible, use a 60% or greater alcohol-based hand sanitizer)
- ☐ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- ☐ Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow (when your facemask is down, such as in your own office). Throw used tissues in the trash and wash hands
- ☐ Wipe your entire workstation before and after use with disinfecting wipes (Include your phone, desk surfaces, keyboard, mouse, monitor, chair, etc.)

# APE: Animal Sheltering - Protocols

- Physical Distancing
  - Limit In Person
  - Stagger Shifts
  - Room Capacities



# APE: Animal Sheltering – Physical Distancing Protocols

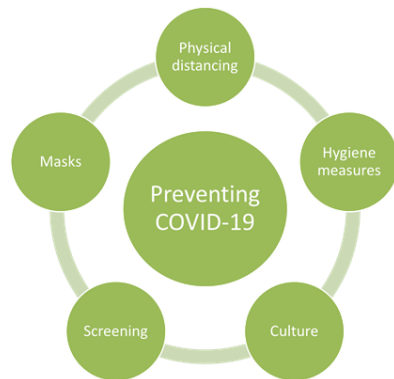
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## Physical Distancing Checklist for Managers

- ☐ Inform (and keep reminding) your team of their 10 Physical Distancing Steps; post the 11 Steps prominently
- ☐ Model all 11 Steps at all times, including being a good sport when you get reminded
- ☐ Reduce occupancy in meeting and break areas to 50% or less and post signs inside and outside the space accordingly
- ☐ Post physical distance markers using tape or signs to denote 6' of spacing in common areas
- ☐ Block-off, post or take away seating to ensure 6' between people
- ☐ Limit in-person meetings and gatherings as much as possible and encourage phone and virtual alternatives
- ☐ Ensure one-way foot traffic wherever possible by posting directional signs

# APE: Animal Sheltering - Protocols

- Culture
  - Understanding
  - Encouraging questions
  - Accountability



# APE: Animal Sheltering – COVID Exposed Protocols

## Working with potentially COVID exposed animals or clients

*July 2020*

### Client Interactions

1. Don/doff PPE as seen below
2. Remaining a minimum of 6 feet away from client.
3. If relinquishing, have client place animal in kennel in isolation.
4. Have client sign relinquishment form.
5. Inform client they will be emailed a receiving form to share information about the animal.

# APE: Animal Sheltering – COVID Exposed Protocols

## Animal Interactions

While there is no evidence at this time that any animals, including companion animals, in the United States, might be a source of infection for humans, it is prudent to keep companion animals that came from households where a person was infected with COVID-19 separated from the general shelter population out of an abundance of caution to protect both human and animal health.

## Intake Exams

1. Wear PPE while doing intake exams and treatments in order to reduce contagious disease risks.
  - a. Wash hands with soap and water after gloves are removed and discarded.
2. Routinely clean and sanitize animal intake areas as well as materials in animal areas such as food and water bowls and bedding.
3. Do not bathe animals or use disinfectant topically on intake because of COVID 19 concerns. There is no need to bathe an animal because of COVID-19 concerns; at this time, there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread to people from the skin or fur of pets.



# APE: Animal Sheltering – COVID Exposed Protocols

## Housing and in-shelter daily care

1. Animal will be housed in isolation for 14 days.
2. Assigned kennel staff team member will be responsible for care after their assigned pods.
3. Don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
4. Walk dogs outside for elimination and exercise in designated side yard.
  - a. Collect feces using gloved hands or a bag and disposed of immediately.
  - b. Spray sanitize yard after use.
5. Cleaning visible dirty surfaces in kennel followed by disinfection. Coronaviruses are readily inactivated by disinfectants typically used in animal shelters, including accelerated hydrogen peroxide at concentrations used for other more common shelter pathogens (e.g. 1:64 (2 oz/gallon) for 5 minutes for coronaviruses, 1:32 (4 oz/ gallon) for 10 min. for parvoviruses). **Normal cleaning and disinfection protocol for both animal housing and common areas is sufficient. Ask Melissa if unsure of that protocol.**
6. Wipe light switches and doorknobs when done in room.

# APE: Animal Sheltering - Protocols

- Presentations
  - Staff, volunteers, board members, etc

Four: Hygiene Measures

- Hygiene measures keep us safe by **removing virus from contaminated hands or surfaces.**



# APE: Animal Sheltering - Result

- Resumed services in July 2020
- Most programming back in some form
- Still utilizing protocols

# APE: One Health Clinic

- Maintaining essential veterinary services in a public One Health clinic during a pandemic

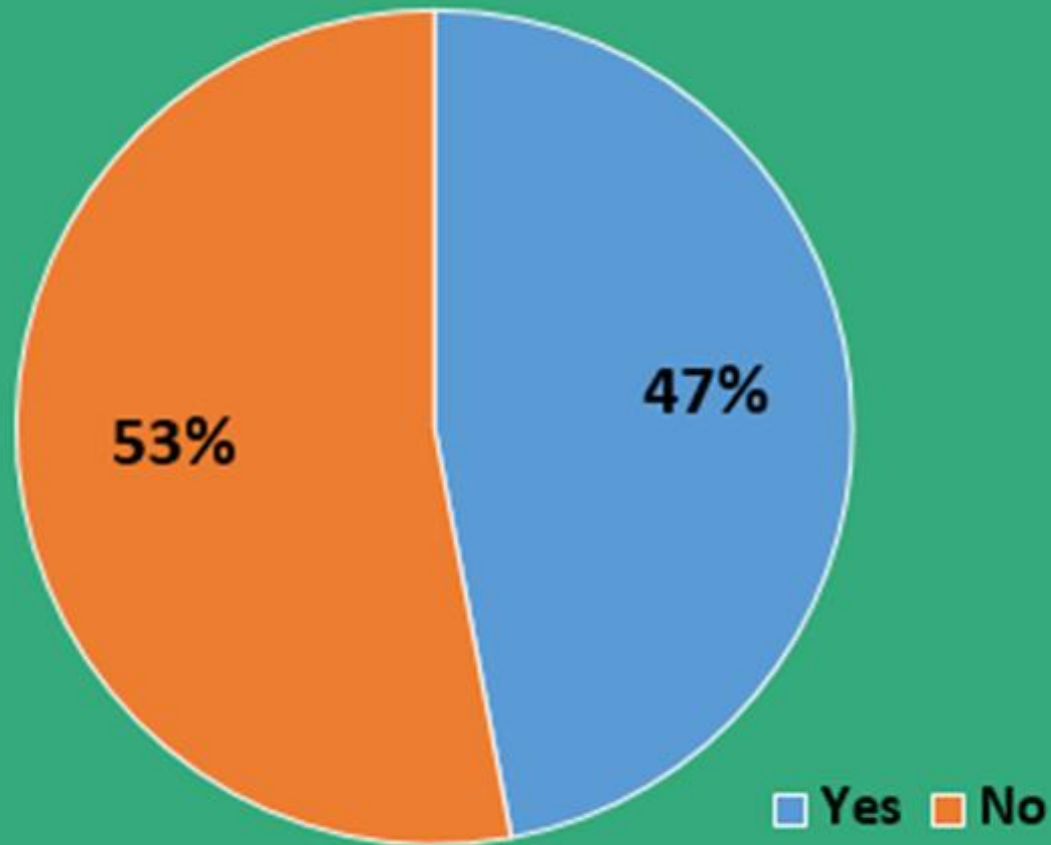
# APE: One Health Clinic

- Population Needs
  - Everybody Counts
  - Survey
  - Poster KPHA



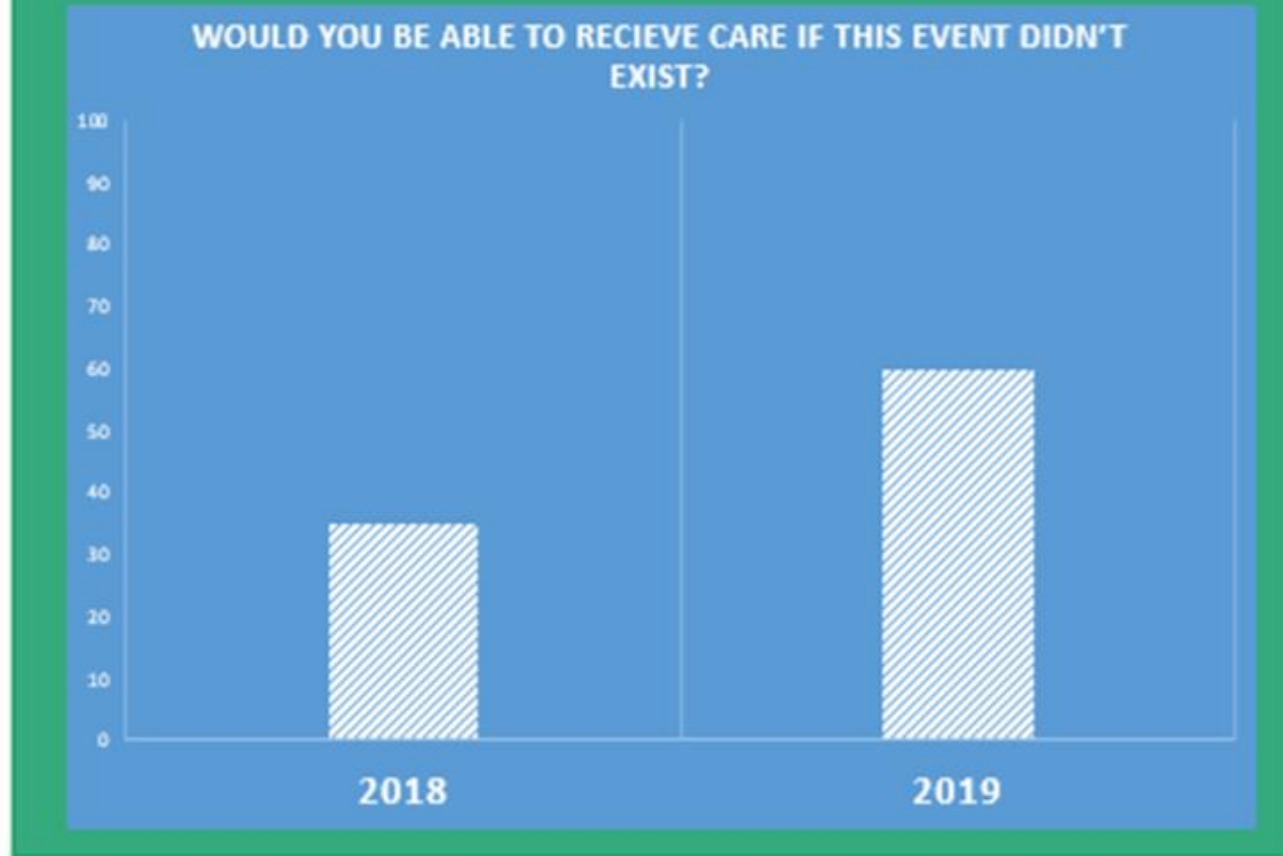
# APE: One Health Clinic

**Figure 2.** 'Did this event make you more likely to have your own health evaluated?'



# APE: One Health Clinic

**Figure 2.** Would you be able to receive care if this event didn't exist?



# APE: One Health Clinic

- CVO
  - Collaboration between KSU, CVO, & myself
  - Hope Faith Rescue Mission
  - 1 year in before COVID



# APE: One Health Clinic - CVO

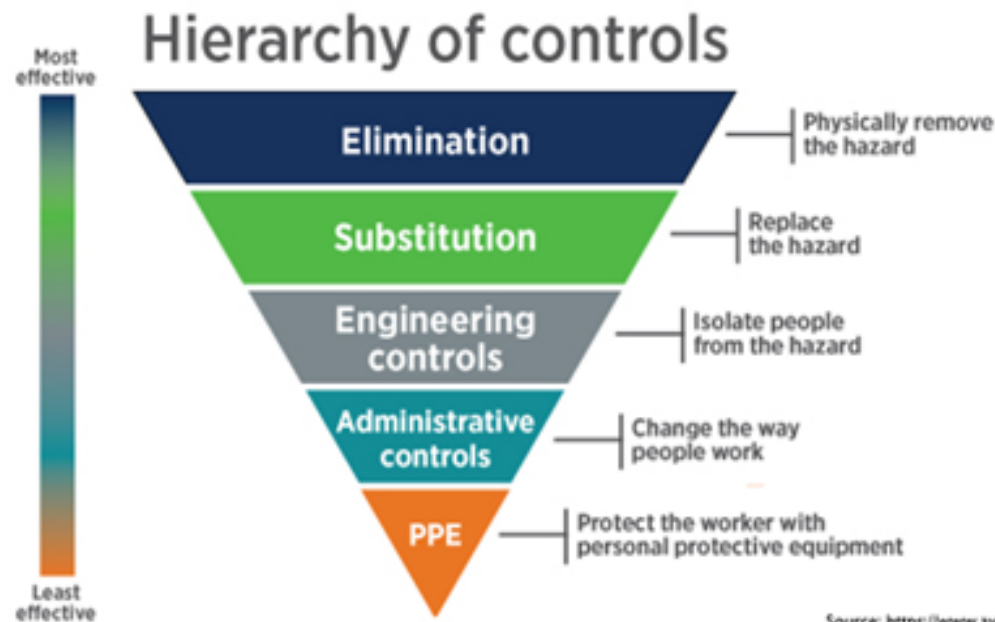
- Prior to COVID
  - Attend/participate in events
  - Establish partnerships
    - JayDoc

# APE: One Health Clinic - CVO

- During COVID
  - Suspend services
    - Partnerships
    - Operations

# APE: One Health Clinic - CVO

## AVMA RISK MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE



Source: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/mobile-house-call-veterinarians-covid-19-pandemic>

# APE: One Health Clinic - CVO

- Risk Mitigation Presentation
  - CVO
  - JayDoc
  - Prairie Paws

# APE: Public Clinic – Result

- Prairie Paws
- Microchip/Wellness Clinic
- Protocol
  - In park
  - Microchip, flea/tick meds, vaccines
- Implemented
  - More than 175 pets
  - No reported COVID cases

# Conclusions

- With these mitigation strategies, we could reopen and conduct clinics without COVID transmission; therefore we would recommend similar strategies to other similar events during COVID and other similar pandemics.

# Discussion

- Canadian Comparison
  - CVO incorporated into public services vs volunteer-based
  - Health outcomes
    - Infant mortality rate and life expectancy both better in Canada (National Bureau of Economic Research)
- US Patchwork



# Competencies

Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice

Analyzed data collected during MPH experiences and data published regarding the current pandemic. Used both sets of data to make recommendations in practice through the creation of interventions like public one health clinics, or in the drafting of safety protocols.



# Competencies

Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges

Much of this project was spent negotiating with stakeholders to communicate the benefits in partnership (e.g. JayDoc) or in the resumption of services (eg CVO). Experience was gained crafting specific presentations for each audience, as time was dedicated to the follow-up to respond to questions.

# Competencies

Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors

Had the opportunity to communicate with various audiences: staffs, volunteers, board members, clients/members of the public, etc. It was important to understand each group's motivations to reach common ground.



# Competencies

Communicate audience appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation

During these experiences, I had the opportunity to hone my writing skills to make concise yet effective instructions, both in the form of protocols and signage. I also had the opportunity to present and facilitate group discussions. Additionally, I was also able to communicate with academic/professional audiences by crafting research posters and presenting them at the KPHA.

# Competencies

Perform effectively on interprofessional teams

Was able to work with individuals representing many different roles with regards to the work we were accomplishing throughout my time. With some groups, like staff, volunteers or board members of PPAS, I had preexisting common ground. For groups from other disciplines, this brought a different challenge. This specifically references human service providers. It started by focusing on an inclusive goal for all and communicating proactively leading up to events and during.

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The seal of Kansas State University is partially visible on the left side of the slide. It is a circular emblem with the text "KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY" around the top and "1863" at the bottom. The center of the seal features a shield with various symbols, including a sun, a plow, and a sheaf of wheat.

# Questions?