

Environmental Impacts of Veterinary Practices

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Commentary

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DESCRIPTION

A transition toward environmentally conscious business practices is underway in many sectors. For healthcare, the subject is both concerning and tragically ironic as hospitals have substantial environmental footprints, which are now known to contribute to significant health problems, that the system itself was designed to treat. The human medical field has been proactive in taking steps to cut back waste and carbon emissions by identifying best practices to attenuate such impacts. Characterization of needs and gaps has been addressed through reviews of the literature regarding environmental sustainability within the context of human hospitals. Our objective was to duplicate methods utilized in a very recent review of environmental sustainability in human hospitals to summarize information available to clinical veterinarians. Two search algorithms were used across 8 databases, however only 3 peer-reviewed opinion articles specific to medicine were identified. These papers included 1 on anaesthesia and a pair of on production animals. Interestingly, all articles were written by United Kingdom-based authors and none were specific to companion animal practice, the foremost important sector within the veterinary industry. Results of this review highlight need for research and communication that supports veterinary clinics in adopting more environmentally sustainable practices. Proposed starting points informed from research in other sectors, including 5 physical themes of energy efficiency, water, waste, sustainable procurement, and transportation, and human behaviour changes on the individual, group, and organizational level is discussed. Additional work is required to support veterinarians and other

animal health professionals to practice medicine in an exceedingly very way that upholds the veterinary profession's oath to plug the health of animals, the public, and thus the environment we all share. Action is one all told the sole public health threats of the twenty-first century. Recent surveys of veterinary students and practicing veterinarians have highlighted their concerns about the impacts of worldwide action on animal health and a sturdy desire to be experienced the practice and promotion of environmental sustainability within clinical practice. Most American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited veterinary schools have a veterinary teaching hospital (VTH) where veterinary students receive their core clinical education. Given this, VTHs may provide opportunities for faculty students to go looking out how veterinary clinics can decrease their environmental footprint and actions they'll incorporate into their future clinical work. Changes made in veterinary practice which may benefit the environment are likely to own a beneficial effect on patients and be good for business. Good dispensary management will avoid overstocking and reduce waste from out of date stock. In any case there could also be some dilemmas. As an example, the drive by some to induce pets on year-round blanket parasitic ide protection might need a rethink to undertake to induce a balanced approach that takes into consideration the results on the environment. Veterinarians should consider the reduction of consumption of resources, which has taking note to the whole lifecycle of a product, and potential toxic impacts from disposal and use (e.g., mercury in CFC lights). Some green practices represent cost savings which is able to flow through to the client as 'green savings'.