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From Silos to Systems: Stakeholder Perspectives on Building a One Health Cohort in Germany

Inhalt

Background

While One Health (OH) recognizes the link between human, animal and environmental health, studies often focus on single domains. This study explores the needs to support OH cohort studies.

Methods

We recruited two groups of stakeholders: individuals a) working in research, and b) with OH-related experiences, referred to as experts and stakeholders. From 11/2025 to 03/2026, we conducted three expert group discussions (4-5 participants/group) and three interviews, and 17 stakeholder interviews. All interviews and discussions were recorded and transcribed. Data collection stopped when topic saturation was achieved. We are conducting qualitative content analysis.

Results

The 34-person sample incl. 17 scientific experts and 17 non-academic stakeholders; 26 (77%) were women. All participants could have more than one expertise/background, therefore, categories are not mutually exclusive. Experts represented veterinary medicine (n=6), virology (n=3), environmental science (n=8), public health (n=2), epidemiology (n=5), human health surveillance (n=1) and nursing (n=1). Stakeholders represented healthcare/pharmacy (n=3), pet ownership (n=7), agriculture (n=3), hunting (n=2), outdoor activities (n=2) and climate engagement (n=2).

Outlook

To our knowledge, this is the first study in Germany of this scope to explore transdisciplinary stakeholder perspectives on translating OH into epidemiological research practice. The findings will support future OH-oriented cohort studies.

Keywords

Epidemiological study desing, Stakeholder perspectives, Qualitative Research, Cross-domain interactions

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