

One Health and the Human-Animal bond

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If you were to stop and think, you have had some interaction with some animal in your lifetime..whether it be the budgie, the dog or the fish.**One Health** is all about the human animal interface and the importance of the relationships between the two.

Take Faith, for instance, a retiree, whose children are now grown and grandchildren who occasionally visit. Faith lives with her hubby and Zipper their indoor mixed breed Pomeranian dog, given to Faith on her 50th birthday some 10 years ago.... Gardener arrives one morning to see Zipper outdoors...now she's never outdoors without Faith. She grabs his pant leg, but he shakes her off. She nips him and runs inside....he in anger chases her in and to complain to 'Miss Faith' that Zipper bit



him....what does he find....Ms Faith seizing...later I was told she had suffered a ruptured aneurysm which immediate emergency surgery corrected.... **Zipper saved Faith's life.**



Or Merlin the parrot trained to assist my deaf veterinary school colleaguehow did he accomplish....he would alert Meesha that her study partner was there, by pulling on her hair or her dress....he would dance when the phone rang, so she could answer via her dictaphone....**Merlin was school companion to Meesha.**

One Health encompasses that relation between man and beast. There's Tina the registered Great Dane and Mannie the mutt found on the roadside of the hills of Trelawny, who became fast friends and caused great joy for the owner's only child. What of incredible horse stories, James Herriott who could share a tale about being a veterinarian and animal owner in the countryside of the U.K.? There is Gay who is

paralyzed and who gains great joy from watching outside her window in Bog Walk the dogs Handsome and Girl frolicking. Animals it has been said possess the innate ability to create 'healing vibes' for those in need...Sun and Moon were two dogs taken to Senior Citizens' homes to bring cheer.

This tenet of **One Health** speaks to the all important human-animal bond....yes allergies to animal dander abound..and yes jokes abound in social media about all the issues that animals cause...accidents, damage to property but remember *All things bright and beautiful...all creatures great and small*