



Terms of Reference

Role

The role of the National Compassion Fatigue Task Force (NCFTF) is to provide leadership and a collection of relevant reliable resources to those working in the fields of animal health and welfare.

Term

This Terms of Reference is effective from January 2015 and continues until October 2015.

Committee Membership

NCFTF is comprised of:

Tonya Martin	Ontario SPCA
Diana Marsilio-Apostoli	Ontario SPCA
Dr. Susan Calverly	Ortho Pets Canada
Karen Melnyk	City of Edmonton
Melaina Slater	Calgary Humane Society
Melissa Carlaw	OVMA
Sarah Bull	Coquitlam Animal Control
Kim Marosevich	City of Surrey

Scope

The NCFTF is accountable for fostering collaboration and removing obstacles in order to create a suitable and accessible self-directed learning environment on the topic of compassion fatigue.

The target audience are those working in the various fields of animal health and welfare across Canada as well as those preparing to enter these fields. Animal health and welfare professionals will be able to access a web-based resource list of trusted, interactive, and useful information.

Background

Compassion fatigue is the deep physical, emotional, and spiritual exhaustion that can result from working day to day in an intense care-giving environment (Figley & Roop, 2006). It has been described as the “cost of caring” for others in emotional pain (Figley, 1982). While compassion fatigue has been recognised since the 1950’s, much of the focus has been on non-animal-related helping professionals such as those in nursing and child protection. As ever more information becomes available to those working in the fields of animal health and welfare, it becomes difficult to separate the accurate from the inaccurate. Providing a trusted source of information will greatly improve the ease of use for those searching for answers during potentially difficult times.

Reference:

Figley CR, Roop RG. *Compassion fatigue in the animal-care community*. Washington, DC, 2006, Humane Society Press