

TABLE 5.1
Interprofessional Versus Interorganizational Collaboration

Aspect	Interprofessional Collaboration	Interorganizational Collaboration
Definition	Collaboration between professionals from different disciplines within a single organization <i>Includes veterinarians, technicians, assistants, customer service representatives, and veterinary social workers</i>	Collaboration between multiple organizations or entities to achieve shared goals or address common challenges; involves representatives from different organizations, each with their own goals and expertise
Focus	Coordinated services to provide integrated care for a specific patient/client case or scenario within a single institution	Collective action of broader issues, such as community-based initiatives, policy advocacy, or access to veterinary care involving multiple stakeholders in the community
Benefits	Enhanced patient care by integrating expertise from various disciplines	Enables pooling of resources, access to a wider range of services, and collective problem-solving for a more significant impact
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication gaps • Different approaches to care • Varying skill sets of professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing power dynamics • Maintaining collaboration over time • Differences in vision/mission of various organizations
Example in a veterinary setting	Interprofessional teams in a specialty hospital treating a complex medical case	Collaborative efforts among a veterinary clinic, a human social services organization, and a retail store to offer basic veterinary care and free pet food to the community

Karam M, Brault I, Van Durme T, et al. Comparing interprofessional and interorganizational collaboration in healthcare: a systematic review of the qualitative research. *Int J Nurs Stud* 2018;79:70–83.

Gaboury I, Bujold M, Boon H, et al. Interprofessional collaboration within Canadian integrative healthcare clinics: key components. *Soc Sci Med* 2009;69(5):707–15.

The 2024 Community Care Guidelines for Small Animal Practice are available at aaha.org/community-care.

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