

UNDERSTANDING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

3-2-1 DISCUSSION GUIDE

Yvette Johnson-Walker DVM, MS, PhD (she, her)



3 TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

Review these messages together.

Different religious traditions approach human-animal relationships and the nature of animal life in very different ways.

The goal is not to force people to change their beliefs but to find a solution that fits within their beliefs.

Give clients the option to share their religious or spiritual beliefs that are relevant to patient care on intake forms.

2 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Question for **team discussion**
Share your thoughts with your team.

Share a time when you faced a challenge with a client or colleague due to religious beliefs. How could you manage the situation better in the future?

Question for **self-reflection**
No need to share your answer or thoughts with anyone.

How do my personal religious and spiritual beliefs impact my interaction with animals?

1 ACTION TO TAKE AS A TEAM AND ONE TO TAKE AS A JOURNEYIST

Make a commitment together as a team to implement at least one of the suggestions below. This will be your team behavior change.

- Add a question to intake forms, such as, “Is there any information you would like to share about your religious or spiritual beliefs that will enable us to provide better care for your pet?”
- Incorporate consideration of dietary practices and observation of various religious holidays into workplace activity planning and scheduling.

Make a commitment as an individual to follow through on at least one of these suggestions (this can be private).

- Learn about the different religions in your community, and pay attention to the beliefs about animals and the human-animal relationship.
- If you have a friendly relationship with someone from a different faith, ask them about their religion’s views on death, euthanasia, and the cremation of animals.

We hope that after the meeting, you will be inspired to explore religious diversity in greater depth, either as a team or individually. We invite everyone to check out Dr. Johnson-Walker’s recommended resources in the [Topic Overview](#).