



Research to protect, treat and cure animals.

An Industry in Crisis: Too Few Veterinarians, Too Few Scientists

More veterinary researchers are needed to discover medical breakthroughs that will help pets live longer, healthier lives, but the industry faces a huge shortage of scientists. This growing shortage will soon impact the long-term viability of veterinary medicine.

- National Research Council, in 2005, warned that too few researchers are being trained
- Laboratory animal medicine has 50 openings, 25 at the director level
- Veterinary pathology and clinical pathology fields had more than 400 unfilled positions in 2007
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will need 200 specialty-trained veterinarians within the next decade
- U.S. Public Health Service has more than 50 unfilled positions, and 50 percent of its current veterinarians are eligible for retirement
- U.S. Department of Agriculture projects a shortage of 600 veterinarians and anticipates that demand for food-supply veterinarians will increase 12–13 percent by 2016
- American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians estimates a shortage of 100 wildlife veterinarians for the U.S. alone, and many federal and state wildlife veterinarians are eligible for retirement
- Veterinarians graduating from U.S. veterinary colleges: 2,600 annually
- Average debt at time of graduation: \$120,000
- Lack of infrastructure to greatly expand student enrollment in U.S. veterinary colleges