

A Brighter Future for People and Pets: Tackling the Veterinary Shortage

MARS
Veterinary Health

Recent studies identified a shortage of veterinary professionals in the U.S. Mars Veterinary Health and its family of veterinary practices are working to make veterinary care more sustainable and accessible.

The Veterinary Care Gap is Growing

- Pet care appointments increased **6.5%** in 2021
- U.S. pet healthcare spending is predicted to increase **33%** between 2019 and 2029
- Nearly **2,000** baby boomer veterinarians are retiring each year
- The number of U.S. veterinarians is increasing just **2.7%** annually
- More than **40,000** new veterinarians are needed to meet projected demand in **2030**

What This Means for Pets and the Profession

- Veterinary teams are feeling **overworked and overwhelmed**
- The current pace of veterinarian graduates will leave a **16% shortfall** over the next 10 years
- It would take **more than 30 years of graduates to meet the 10-year need** for credentialed veterinary technicians based on current U.S. education capacity
- Over **75 million** pets in the U.S. may not have access to veterinary care by **2030** without intervention

Solving for the Veterinary Professional Shortage

1. Expanding the workforce through:

- Creating additional career pathways
- Investment in equity, inclusion & diversity initiatives, including engaging underrepresented groups about veterinary careers
- Increased class sizes and additional veterinary schools

2. Improving efficiency through:

- Ensuring veterinary graduates are practice-ready
- Enabling credentialed veterinary technicians to practice at the top of their license
- Increased access to telehealth services

3. Continued industry research to:

- Understand the issue
- Identify new educational models
- Improve efficiency in practice
- Enhance access to care

How Mars Veterinary Health is Supporting the Cause

- **Strengthening the pipeline** through new educational and career pathways
- **Inspiring the next generation** of veterinarians, with a focus on underserved communities
- **Providing student debt relief** totaling \$25 million in financial counseling, loan refinancing, stipend, and lump sum support by 2025
- **Increasing access to care for pets** through innovations like 24/7 telehealth services
- **Investing in equity, inclusion & diversity** initiatives to make the field more representative of society, and improve culturally competent care
- **Offering health and wellbeing resources** such as MVH4You.com

For more information, visit [MarsVeterinary.com](https://www.MarsVeterinary.com)