Mid-Level Position

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Is an MLP Needed?

... to address increasing demand for veterinary services and workforce shortages?

• Some circulating workforce numbers on service demand and the supply of veterinarians are misleading
• Demand is normalizing post-pandemic
• Shortage situations are sector specific and multifactorial
• Increasing class sizes and new schools
Pet owner wait times are normalizing (Fall 2023)

For Routine Care or an Injury

Length of Appointment
Wait Time

- Less than a day: 22%
- 1 to 3 days: 38%
- 4 to 6 days: 16%
- 1 to 2 weeks: 12%
- 3 to 4 weeks: 3%
- 5 weeks or more: 3%
- I don’t remember: 5%

60% of pet owners waited three days or less to see a veterinarian; 76% waited less than a week.

For Emergency Situations

Length of Wait Time

- Less than an hour: 48%
- 1 to 2 hours: 31%
- 3 to 4 hours: 15%
- 5 to 6 hours: 2%
- More than 6 hours: 2%
- I don’t remember: 4%

78% of those whose pets needed emergency care received help in 2 hours or less.
Pet owners far prefer a veterinarian to be in charge of their pet’s care

8 in 10 (79%) pet owners want a licensed veterinarian to be in charge of their pet’s care
Mid-level isn’t a quick fix

- Would require legislative and regulatory changes in 50 states and other jurisdictions
- Would require federal legislative and regulatory changes
- An agreed curriculum, accreditation standards, testing, and licensure requirements all must be developed
Only Veterinarians Can Prescribe

On-Label Use of an Animal Drug
• Must be under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian
• May only be dispensed by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian in the course of their professional practice

Off-Label Use of a Human or Animal Drug
• Requires physical examination by a licensed veterinarian or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animals are kept

Consequences ...
• Sale of misbranded drugs
• Sale of unsafe and adulterated drugs and animal feed
• Civil and Criminal penalties under the FDCA
• Civil Litigation & Disciplinary action by licensing boards
Proponents want to make the supervising veterinarian legally responsible for the acts and omissions of an MLP.

**Top Drivers of Veterinary Malpractice Claims**

- Spays / Neuters
- Dental Procedures
- Adverse Anesthetic Events
- Drug Errors
Is There a Viable Alternative?

• Fully leveraging practice staff, especially veterinary technicians
• Improving workplace culture to support retention and prevent attrition
• Integrate better processes and technology.