



# Mid-Level Position

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# Is an MLP Needed?

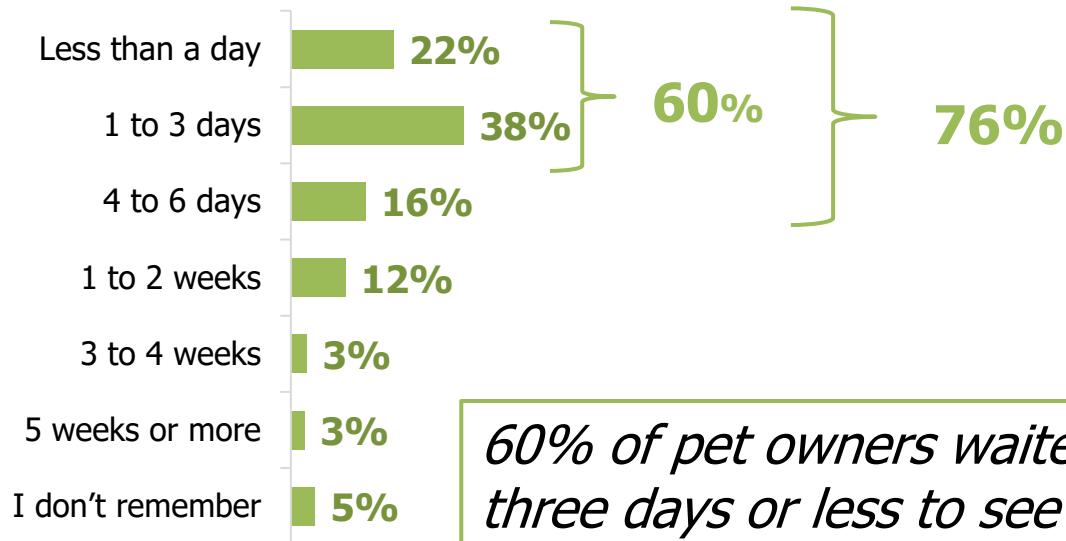
... to address increasing demand for veterinary services and workforce shortages?

- 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)

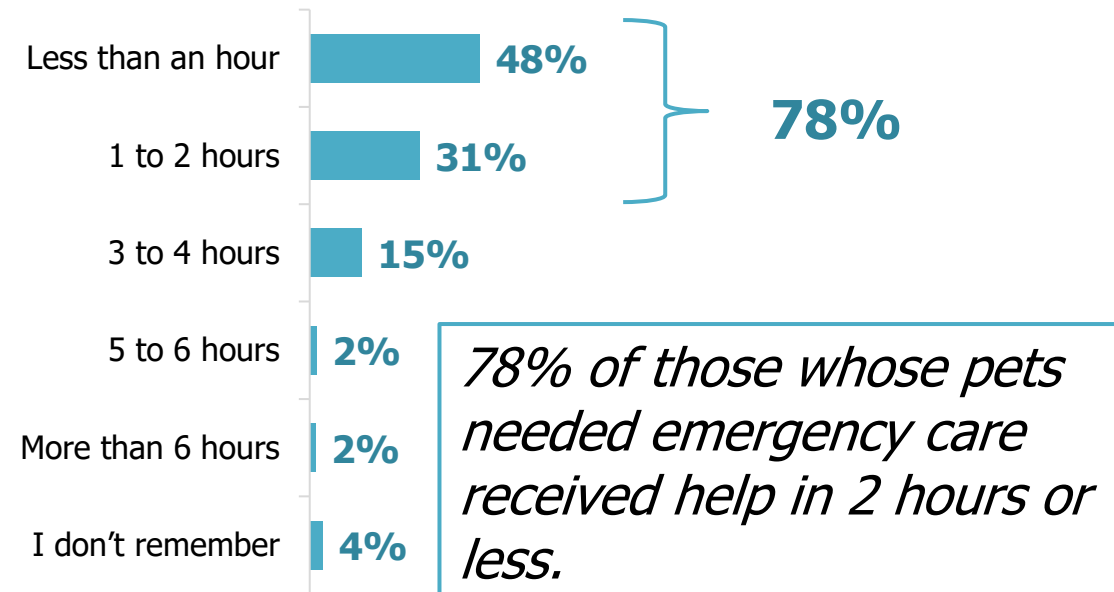
## For Routine Care or an Injury

### Length of Appointment Wait Time

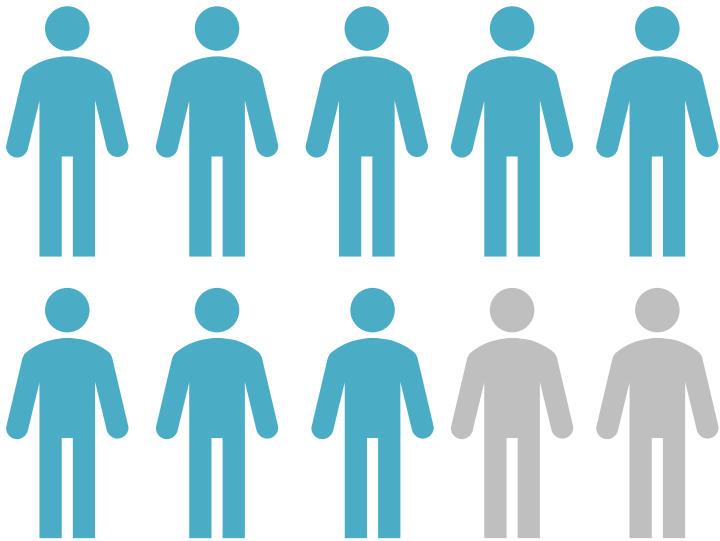


## For Emergency Situations

### Length of Wait Time



# 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

# Liability Considerations

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.