OVERVIEW OF THE AVMA AND VETERINARY PROFESSION

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Scientific Activities
American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
AVMA Mission

To improve animal and human health and advance the veterinary medical profession.
AVMA Core Competencies and Strategic Goals
Voice of the Profession
Scientific Research and Discovery
AVMA Governance

Volunteer leadership:
  Executive Board
  House of Delegates
  Councils, Committees, Task Forces
  Office of the Executive Vice President
AVMA Membership

- > 82,500 veterinarians
- Approx. 83% of U.S. veterinarians

EOY 2011
Practice Disciplines

- Private clinical practice
- Academia
- Animal health industry
- Nonprofit
- Corporate veterinary practice
- Federal government
- State government
- Military
Diverse Practices

- Size of practice
- Number of veterinarians
- Single species to multiple species
- Rural/suburban/urban
- Mobile clinics to multi-site facilities
- Primary care to specialty care
- Routine care to emergency care
- Private to corporate to NFP to university
Animal Species

- Companion animals
- Livestock
- Horses
- Exotic animals
- Fish
- Wildlife
Two-thirds (62.4%) of households owned one or more pets in 2011.
Veterinary Pharmacology Education

- Veterinary education: 4y of post-Baccalaureate education
- DVM or VMD degree granted
- Programs accredited by the AVMA Council on Education under USDE
  - Standards for Accreditation
  - Must meet or exceed Standards
  - Standards include curriculum
Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR)

- Sufficient knowledge of patient (examination)
- Veterinarian advises client (diagnose/prescribe)
- Client has elected to follow the veterinarian’s advice
- Written records are kept
- Information/options for emergency care are provided
Regulation and Oversight

- State veterinary practice acts
- State veterinary medical boards
  - Enforce state veterinary practice act
  - Examine prospective licensees
  - Set requirements
  - Grant/revoke licenses
  - Define unprofessional conduct
  - Investigate breaches
  - Discipline violators
Governing Statutes and Regulation

- State pharmacy acts and boards
  - Licensure, control, and regulation of pharmacy sites and professional practices
- State laws give licensed veterinarians authority to dispense drugs to their patients with VCPR
- U.S. Food & Drug Administration
- Drug Enforcement Administration
Improving Human and Animal Health

Advancing the Veterinary Medical Profession