

**VETERINARIANS: PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS & PEOPLE** | Veterinarians are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of both animals and humans. They practice in all counties in Illinois and are the trained experts who are familiar with issues involving animal welfare, disease, food safety, environmental conservation, and public health.

Some **Illinois veterinarians** have advanced designations in one or more of the following areas:



**Completion of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree requires four years of specialized study. There are 28 accredited colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States.**

Veterinary students generally complete their four-year undergraduate college experience and earn their bachelor's degree. At the University of Illinois students can apply for admission before completing their undergraduate studies. However, few students choose this option and only a very few are admitted under it.

Just like in human medicine, veterinarians may choose to specialize, and will complete additional training and testing. Often times, the additional training requires a one year internship followed by a three year residency program. Additionally, certain specialties require veterinarians to complete a research degree (Masters or PhD).

The average student debt for the 89.2 percent of veterinary students who reported that they expected to have debt at the time of their graduation was \$151,672

- 1 Anesthesiology
- 2 Animal Welfare (provisional recognition)
- 3 Behavior
- 4 Clinical Pharmacology
- 5 Dermatology
- 6 Dentistry
- 7 Internal Medicine
- 8 Emergency and Critical Care
- 9 Laboratory Animal Medicine
- 10 Microbiology
- 11 Nutrition
- 12 Ophthalmology
- 13 Pathology
- 14 Preventive Medicine
- 15 Poultry medicine
- 16 Radiology
- 17 Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (provisional recognition)
- 18 Surgery
- 19 Theriogenology
- 20 Toxicology
- 21 Veterinary Practitioners
- 22 Zoological medicine

**For questions or information concerning any animal issues please contact:**

**Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA)**

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## The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association

is a not-for-profit, professional association representing approximately 2,900 licensed veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians working in sectors such as private or corporate practice (small animal, exotic pet animal, equine, food animal, zoo or mixed animal), industry, government, zoo or preserve organizations, uniformed services and academia. The organization is dedicated to advancing the well-being of veterinary professionals, animals, the public and the environment.



**Private or corporate clinical practice** | Provide medical and surgical care for companion animal, exotic, equine, and food animal species.



**Teaching** | Teach and train veterinarians, certified veterinary technicians, undergrad and graduate students. Also conduct research, provide care for animals in veterinary teaching hospitals, and develop continuing education programs.



**Research** | Working at universities, governmental agencies or industry to find innovative ways to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases that affect human and animal health. | For example, veterinarians identified the cause of West Nile virus infection, and made discoveries to control malaria and yellow fever. | Pharmaceutical and biomedical research-veterinarians develop, test, and supervise the production of drugs and biological products. Veterinarians working in this sector have specialized training in toxicology, pathology, pharmacology, or laboratory animal medicine.



**Industry** | Veterinarians work in management, technical sales, services, and regulatory affairs for pet food companies, agribusinesses, and pharmaceutical companies.



**Regulatory Medicine** | Federal and state agencies employ veterinarians to quarantine and inspect animals brought into the country, supervise interstate shipment of animals, and have been involved in the prevention and eradication of diseases including rabies and tuberculosis. | Veterinarians working for the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) ensure that only healthy animals enter the food supply. They ensure that meat, poultry, and eggs are safe for human consumption. | The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) veterinarians monitor the development of and testing of new vaccines for safety and effectiveness. | They also enforce animal welfare regulations to ensure humane treatment of animals, protect U.S. agriculture through disease surveillance, and prevent foreign animal disease from entering our country and endangering the U.S. food supply. | Veterinarians also work for other governmental agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



**Public Health** | Veterinarians are trained as epidemiologists in city, county, state, and federal agencies investigating human and animal disease outbreaks such as food-borne illness, influenza, and rabies. | Over 100 veterinarians work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They protect public health by investigating disease throughout the world and developing programs to help prevent the spread of diseases such as Ebola, malaria, and avian influenza. | Veterinarians in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) protect human and animal health and safety by developing disease surveillance and anti-terrorism procedures and protocols. | Veterinarians play vital roles in helping communities recover from manmade and natural disasters.



**Military Service** | Veterinarians serving in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps protect the U.S. against bioterrorism. They are responsible for food safety, veterinary care of government-owned animals, and biomedical research and development. | In the U.S. Air Force, veterinarians serve in the Biomedical Science Corps as public health officers. They manage occupational illness, foodborne disease, and communicable disease control programs at Air Force bases throughout the world. | Military veterinarians also help to rebuild and improve animal care systems in underdeveloped and war-damaged countries



**Other service** | Veterinarians also work in the areas of animal welfare, zoo medicine, aquatic animal medicine, aerospace medicine, sports medicine, animal-assisted therapy programs, and wildlife medicine. | Veterinarians are involved in local, state and federal governments, working with legislators to shape laws that protect the health, welfare, and well-being of animals and people.

