VETERINARIANS:
Promoting and Protecting the U.S. Food Supply, Public Health, National Preparedness and Response
For 50 years and counting, the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) has demonstrated a commitment to promoting excellence in academic veterinary medicine. Our members include all 30 of our nation’s accredited schools and colleges of veterinary medicine who all work to ensure a U.S. veterinary workforce ready to meet the nation’s needs.
People from all backgrounds and political persuasions agree: Veterinary medical colleges contribute to the overall wellbeing of our nation and our planet.

The Veterinary Medicine Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives encompasses members from both parties who represent a range of ideological views and geographic locations. Led by Rep. Kurt Schrader (D) and Rep. Ted Yoho (R), who are both veterinarians, the caucus exists to provide a forum to keep members informed about the opportunities and challenges facing veterinary medicine and help increase awareness of the importance of veterinary medicine on research, public health, animal health and welfare, food safety, and our overall economy.

*Schools and colleges of veterinary medicine teach medicine that alleviates suffering, contributes to groundbreaking medical advancements, protects the environment, and makes the world a better, healthier place.*

*Veterinarians speak for patients who have no voice. At the same time, we keep America’s food supply the best and safest in the world.*

*Rep. Ted Yoho, DVM*

*Veterinarians have become the most qualified health professionals to help us deal with zoonotic diseases, bioterrorism, comparative medicine, and food safety issues...*

*Rep. Kurt Schrader, DVM*
The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges works with the Veterinary Medicine Caucus, policymakers, governmental agencies and leaders in commerce and industry to increase awareness of the important role that schools and colleges of veterinary medicine play by educating medical professionals who:

- Promote both animal and human health
- Protect the nation’s food supply
- Prevent disease
- Conduct life-saving research
- Serve as vital members of our nation’s emergency healthcare detection and response teams

Veterinary medical colleges are engines of innovation and discovery, with a much-needed, comparative approach to medicine that is unique among the health professions.
The AAVMC advocates for the resources our U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine and departments of veterinary science and comparative medicine need to:

- Safeguard our nation’s food supply and the international food animal products trade
- Strengthen public health where veterinarians work with their human health counterparts to prevent and control emerging zoonotic infectious disease outbreaks, and to promote the mental and physical health of the U.S. population
- Conduct cross-disciplinary, cutting-edge biomedical research
- Strengthen national preparedness and response
- Protect animal health and relieve animal suffering
- Protect livestock from foreign animal disease, which can harm the economy and public health
- Promote human health through preventive care and the promotion of pet wellness
- Increase the amount and quality of veterinary research conducted at colleges of veterinary medicine and departments of veterinary science and comparative medicine, and in collaboration with the other health professions
- Increase the number of individuals throughout academic veterinary medicine whose advancement in the profession has historically been affected by gender, race, ethnicity, and geographic, socio-economic, and educational disadvantage.

As both a veterinarian and a medical doctor, I know how critical veterinary medicine is to human and animal health. Veterinarians’ willingness to ensure food safety and good animal husbandry is actually a national security issue.

Rep. Ralph Abraham, MD, DVM
Note: This chart lists member institutions based upon changes approved by the board in July 2014.
PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS

The AAVMC partners with various organizations, including the following:

• **Land-Grant Institutions:** AAVMC is a member of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). AAVMC partners with APLU to support extramural research in agriculture science and the development of future researchers.

• **Other Veterinary Organizations:** AAVMC and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) have a well-established history of working together to best represent the veterinary profession. We also partner with veterinarians representing specialty fields of practice and in federal and state government.

• **Animal Industry:** AAVMC is a member of the Animal Agriculture Coalition (AAC), which represents the major animal and animal-related commodity organizations in America. We also partner with the Animal Health Institute (AHI), which represents companies with an interest in animal health.

• **Health Professions:** AAVMC works with all of the allied health professions to support funding for training programs, especially those targeted at increasing the racial diversity of graduates. The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) and the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions (FASHP) are two such examples.

• **Research:** AAVMC partners with organizations, like Research!America, who are committed to making health-related research a higher national priority.

More than 3,000 veterinarians work for 20 federal agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) and the U.S. Army.

*Source: National Association of Federal Veterinarians*