

CRITICAL ISSUES SORTED BY TOTAL POINTS RECEIVED

| FREQ ISSUE WAS RANKED | TOTAL POINTS REC'D (adjusted ranking of top 10 critical issues by surveyed HOD members) | FREQ OF LOW RANK (Score of 1 or 2) | FREQ OF HIGH RANK (Score of 9 or 10) | MEAN RANK | GOAL AREA | CRITICAL ISSUE STATEMENT |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------|------------------|--|
| 102 | 583 | 15 | 31 | 6.3 | EDU | Student debt load coupled with economic return for new graduates in today's economy has become unmanageable. Increasing student debt is related to increased tuition and decreased state funding of veterinary schools. |
| 91 | 507 | 11 | 20 | 6.3 | AW | The public is not well informed of the important leadership role that veterinarians have in advocating for animal welfare and as a consequence is being influenced by emotion-based appeals. |
| 85 | 482 | 7 | 23 | 6.4 | EDU | Current recruitment and admission standards that overly emphasize academic performance rather than admission of well-rounded, competent students with diverse backgrounds and interests may not produce graduates that can succeed as professionals in today's |
| 88 | 427 | 17 | 14 | 5.5 | SOP | State legislation is increasingly being proposed that enables non-veterinary medical personnel to provide veterinary services to the public. (Examples include alternative medicine, chiropractic procedures, acupuncture, equine and small animal dentistry, |
| 83 | 423 | 14 | 17 | 5.8 | WRK | Without engaged and competent leaders, organized veterinary medicine will be unable to effectively advocate for the veterinary medical profession. |
| 73 | 400 | 6 | 18 | 6.3 | EDU | There is growing concern that the veterinary school curriculum produces graduates who are insufficiently prepared for clinical practice without additional post-graduate education. |
| 86 | 397 | 13 | 10 | 5.2 | WRK | State veterinary medical associations are increasingly challenged to maintain relevance to younger veterinarians. |
| 71 | 390 | 7 | 15 | 6.4 | AW | Animal welfare issues are increasingly visible to the public and profession, yet the profession struggles to provide a consistent and unified message. |
| 80 | 374 | 14 | 14 | 5.3 | WRK | There is an unmet need for veterinarians in certain areas of public practice (e.g., food supply positions in federal agencies, diagnostic laboratories, disaster management). |
| 55 | 259 | 6 | 11 | 5.8 | ECO | Practices are experiencing increasingly higher costs of doing business which are negatively impacting profitability. |

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| 59 | 247 | 13 | 7 | 5.0 | SOP | States with rural areas experiencing shortages of veterinarians are studying ways to serve these unmet needs through the use of lay large animal paraprofessionals. |
| 52 | 244 | 7 | 10 | 5.8 | WRK | There are areas that are underserved by clinical veterinarians, both small and large animal. |
| 48 | 240 | 5 | 11 | 6.3 | AW | AVMA is insufficiently proactive and progressive on animal welfare issues, bringing few issues forward and leading few initiatives. |
| 45 | 193 | 2 | 3 | 5.5 | EDU | Veterinary schools are experiencing tremendous reductions in research funding, impacting the advancement of veterinary medical knowledge. |
| 47 | 181 | 11 | 7 | 4.9 | ECO | Economic downturn has impacted consumers' ability to afford veterinary services meaning many pets do not receive veterinary care. |
| 46 | 179 | 7 | 3 | 5.0 | ECO | The market for veterinary service delivery is becoming increasingly segmented and impacting practice profitability (e.g., specialty, large corporate, non-profit, independent). |
| 44 | 173 | 13 | 10 | 5.1 | AW | There is inadequate collaboration among AVMA and its stakeholders to identify species-specific animal welfare issues and establish AVMA animal welfare policies on such issues. |
| 50 | 171 | 10 | 1 | 4.3 | SOP | Local governments are passing regulations restricting the practice of veterinary procedures authorized by state practice acts. |
| 41 | 135 | 12 | 3 | 4.4 | AW | The profession, including veterinary students, is unaware of AVMA animal welfare policies and advocacy, limiting its ability to respond to public inquiry. |
| 43 | 118 | 13 | 1 | 3.6 | WRK | There is a need to graduate and retain more credentialed veterinary technicians to work in private practice. |
| 32 | 117 | 6 | 5 | 5.3 | SOP | There are increasing efforts to restrict prescription drug dispensing by veterinarians. |
| 27 | 81 | 4 | 1 | 4.8 | WRK | The veterinary profession is increasingly challenged by its lack of diversity. |
| 28 | 70 | 6 | 1 | 3.9 | AW | The veterinary curriculum is deficient in the area of animal welfare. |
| 25 | 70 | 6 | 3 | 4.7 | AW | When veterinarians communicate with animal owners and producers about recommended animal welfare improvements, the veterinarians' recommendations are often unduly influenced by cost considerations. |
| 19 | 38 | 2 | 0 | 4.2 | AW | The amount of continuing education for practitioners on animal welfare is inadequate. |
| 18 | 27 | 3 | 0 | 3.4 | AW | Indigent and homeless pet owners have insufficient means to access veterinary care. |
| 15 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 3.0 | SOP | There is a concern that veterinary laboratories are offering services direct to animal owners and are impacting practice profitability. |

***Analysis was performed with converted raw data (i.e. 1->10, 2->9, etc.)