

First-of-its-Kind Study Reveals Concern about the Future of the Veterinary Profession



In a large, well-controlled study of veterinarians, conducted by Merck Animal Health in collaboration with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), findings indicated veterinarians age 45 and younger are more likely than the general U.S. population to experience serious psychological distress and only 27 percent of

them would endorse the profession to a friend or family member.

“This survey is unique in that, for the first time, a nationally representative sample of veterinarians in the U.S. were asked about their wellbeing, which is a broader measure of happiness and life satisfaction than mental health alone,” said study investigator Linda Lord, PhD, DVM, academic and allied industry liaison lead, Merck Animal Health. “Based on the survey results, we are particularly concerned about younger veterinarians as they are the future of our profession. We must work together to promote a healthy lifestyle, including work/life balance, access to wellness resources and debt reduction.”

According to the study, about 1 in 20 veterinarians are suffering from serious psychological distress, which is in line with the general population. However, when segmenting data by age, younger veterinarians are more impacted by the financial and emotional stresses of professional veterinary life, compared to both older male veterinarians and individuals in the general population. Depression (94%), burnout (88%) and anxiety (83%) are the most frequently reported conditions.

“We are proud to partner with AVMA to conduct this important study to better understand the challenges facing the veterinary profession,” said Scott Bormann, vice president, U.S. commercial operations, Merck Animal Health and current chairman of the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor Advisory Board. “The veterinary community is an important part of the Corridor and to the animal health community nationally. We are committed to working with AVMA and others to support veterinarians by raising awareness and offering assistance and resources, including close to \$3 million in scholarships over the last three years, and will continue to look for ways to positively impact the wellbeing of practicing veterinarians, and enrich the possibilities for the future of this profession.”

For a full report of the results, [click here](#).