



# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY School of Veterinary Medicine™

**Texas Tech University has developed an innovative, world-class School of Veterinary Medicine that addresses the critical shortage of veterinarians threatening small, regional and agricultural communities throughout Texas. The Texas Tech program is cost-efficient and will graduate career-ready veterinarians to serve the State of Texas.**

**Texas Legislature Request:** \$17.4 million to establish the new degree program  
*Additional \$13.2 million appropriation, along with \$4.2 million current base funding appropriation*

**Texas Tech has raised \$90 million in non-state funds for infrastructure costs**

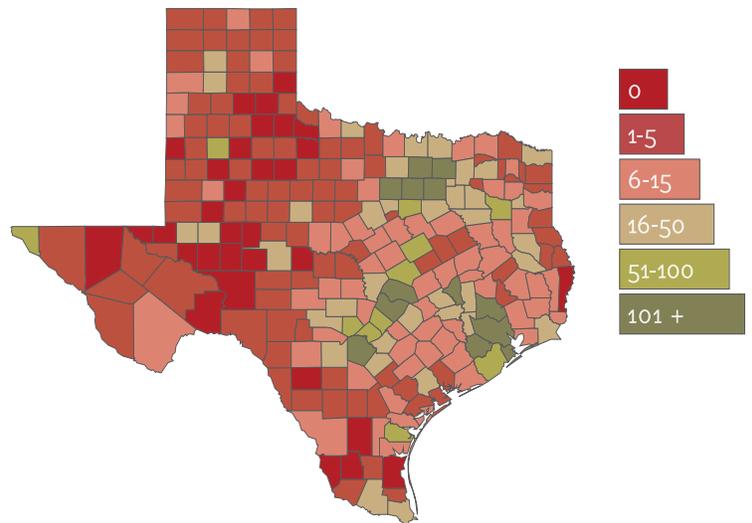
## Texas' Critical Need

Texas has a critical shortage of veterinarians who serve small, regional and agricultural communities and the livestock industry. This need has been documented by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) reports in 1971, 2002, 2009 and 2016.

According to the 2016 report, there were roughly 6,600 veterinarians in Texas. The majority of veterinarians focus their practice on small animals, while only 180 veterinarians serve livestock in rural areas.

In Texas, 74 percent of counties have fewer than 50,000 people. In these counties, more than 40 percent of licensed veterinarians are over the age of 60. By contrast, in urban centers, only 25 percent of veterinarians are over the age of 60.

Number of Texas Licensed Veterinarians by County



## Location Matters

Texas leads the nation in cattle, sheep, goat and mohair production and has the highest number of horses and food and fiber animals in the U.S. The Texas Panhandle has the highest density of cattle in the country, yet Texas ranks last among the 10 most populous states for the ratio of cattle to veterinarians.

Amarillo is the epicenter of livestock production and home to the nationally-ranked Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine. This provides a unique opportunity for collaboration that will advance the intrinsically-tied health of animals and humans.

U.S. Veterinary Schools



★ Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine in Amarillo

## Educational Demand in Texas

Texas is a rapidly growing state with a population of 28 million people, growing by more than 11 million since 1990. With this growth, opportunities for veterinary education has not kept up with student demand.

- In 2017, there were nearly 600 applicants for the existing veterinary medicine program in Texas; due to limited program capacity, only 142 were accepted and enrolled.
- In 2017, more Texas students left the state to pursue their education in veterinary medicine than the number of first-year students enrolled in the state.

Texas has become overwhelmingly dependent on other states and countries to train its veterinary workforce.

- A generation ago, the state's existing veterinary program met 80% of the veterinary workforce demand. Today, it graduates less than 25% of the Texas veterinary workforce.
- Educational programs outside of Texas and the U.S. supply more than 75% of Texas' veterinary workforce.

## Transforming Veterinary Education

In 2005, the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada designed a program to address similar needs for veterinarians in rural areas. In seven years of graduates, 98% have stayed in the region while 63% accepted private practice positions that serve rural areas.

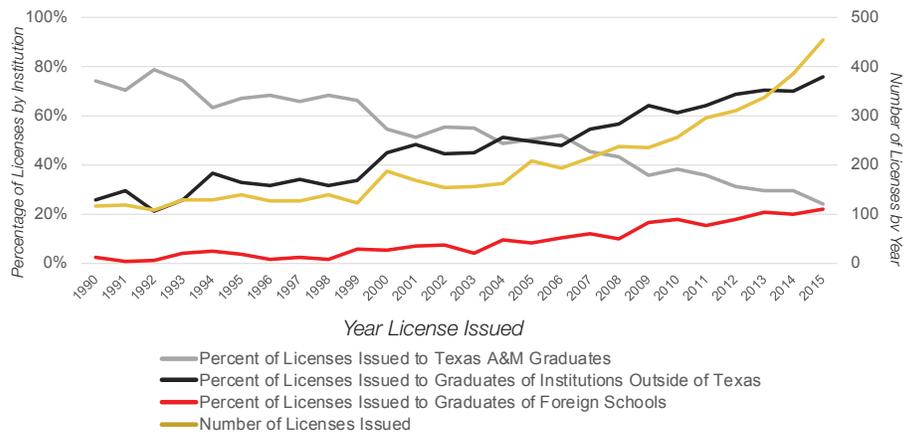
Texas Tech adapted its veterinary program from this cost-efficient, successful model, which is fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

## Texas Tech's Model

Texas Tech's curriculum is designed to recruit and train students who have a passion for serving small, regional and agricultural communities.

The model eliminates the need and expense of a traditional teaching hospital, making it one of the most cost efficient in the nation for students and distinct from, yet complementary to, the existing program in the state.

Licenses Issued by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners



This approach utilizes expertise of existing veterinary practices through partnerships that will provide students more hands-on learning experiences and opportunities.

In 1969, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center established its medical school, which has successfully transformed the landscape of health care in West Texas.

In 1970, there were roughly 1,350 people for every physician in the region. Today, there is one physician for every 650 citizens. Texas Tech's transformative health care model provides health care professionals and services for the 108-county service area.

## Major Developments

- In 2016, a report from the THECB recommended consideration of an innovative, cost-efficient, non-duplicative model of veterinary education.
- The 85th Texas Legislature appropriated \$4.17 million to Texas Tech for veterinary medicine.
- Texas Tech has subsequently conducted a feasibility assessment; developed an innovative, cost-efficient curriculum; designed facilities; consulted with state authorities and accrediting bodies; and secured community and industry support.
- The Texas Tech University System Board of Regents approved the establishment of the School of Veterinary Medicine and degree program in August 2018.
- Texas Tech has raised \$90 million to fund the necessary infrastructure, effectively leveraging and maximizing the state's investment.
- Texas Tech has built a network of excited veterinarians across the state to provide hands-on, real-world, high-quality experiential learning.