

VET CANDY

Magazine.



FROM THE ER TO THE GYM:
THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF

DR. JENNIFER HENNESSEY

TEXAS' SUPER-VET
BODYBUILDER

MIRACLE PUPPY
REGROWS JAW AFTER
CANCER SURGERY:
A VETERINARY FIRST

REVEALED:
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WITH THE LONGEST
(AND SHORTEST!) LIVES

GROUNDBREAKING
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COULD END ANIMAL
TESTING FOREVER

TRUST IN TATTERS:
VETERINARIANS AMONG
THE FEW TRUSTED
PROFESSIONS IN
LATEST ETHICS POLL

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Editor's Note

Welcome to the world of VET CANDY

Dr. Jill Lopez

Dear Vet Candy Community,

Welcome to the March edition of Vet Candy Magazine, where we continue to delve into the fascinating and dynamic world of veterinary medicine. This month, we bring you an array of stories that not only highlight groundbreaking medical achievements but also address some of the most pressing issues facing our beloved veterinary community.

Our cover story features Dr. Jennifer Hennessey, a Texas-based veterinarian who embodies the spirit of resilience and versatility. Dr. Hennessey's journey from the emergency room to the bodybuilding stage is nothing short of inspirational. Her story is a testament to the power of dedication and the pursuit of excellence in multiple facets of life. As a veterinary visionary and a champion bodybuilder, Dr. Hennessey is breaking barriers and setting new benchmarks for what it means to be a modern veterinary professional.

In addressing the challenges of our profession, we explore the innovative initiatives taken by Texas A&M in creating a wellness space for veterinary technicians. This thoughtful and necessary step reflects a growing awareness of the mental health needs of our veterinary staff. The Grotto is a pioneering project that underscores the importance of providing support and care to those who dedicate their lives to caring for animals.

Furthermore, we delve into the significant changes brought about by Penn Vet students in their clinical work schedules. This marks a crucial step towards balancing rigorous training with the well-being of our future veterinarians. Their advocacy for change is a powerful reminder of the importance of student voices in shaping the future of veterinary education.

Among our most heartwarming stories this month is the miraculous recovery of Tyson, a puppy who regrew his jaw after cancer surgery. This medical marvel from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine opens new doors in veterinary oncology and offers hope for similar cases in the future.



Building Muscles and Careers



On a more somber note, we address the shocking findings of a study linking secondhand smoke to cancer in dogs, reminding us of the broader impacts of our lifestyle choices on our pets' health.

This edition also brings to light a range of topics from the surprising revelations about the life expectancies of different dog breeds to the historic win of Dr. Deepan Kishore, who becomes the first Indian vet to receive Oklahoma's top veterinary honor. Each story is a piece of the puzzle that makes up the vast and varied world of veterinary medicine.

We hope this edition of Vet Candy Magazine provides you with insights, inspiration, and a deeper appreciation for the incredible work being done in veterinary medicine. Thank you for your continued support, and here's to another month of extraordinary stories and achievements in our field.

Warm regards,
Dr. Jill Lopez
Editor-in-chief,
Vet Candy





From the ER to the Gym:

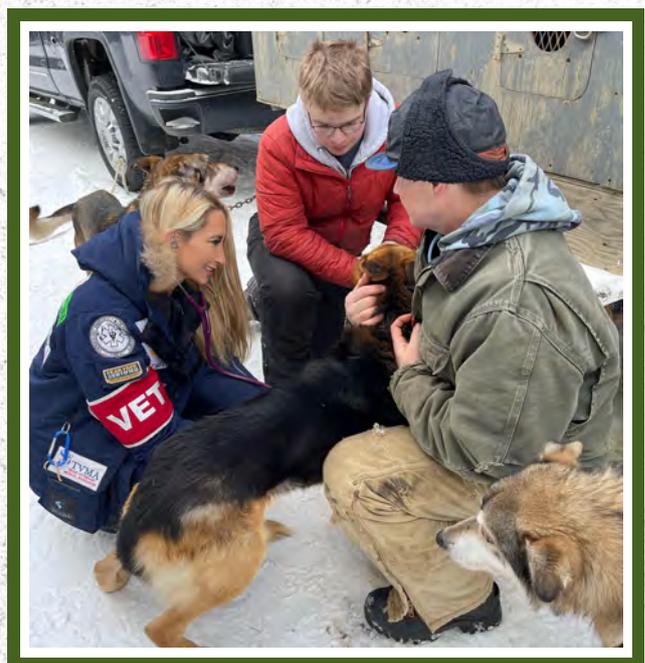
The Remarkable Journey of Dr. Jennifer Hennessey, Texasī Super-Vet Bodybuilder

In a remarkable story of grit and grace, Dr. Jennifer Hennessey, a Texas-based veterinarian, shatters stereotypes as she juggles her life-saving profession with a passion for bodybuilding. This deep dive into Dr. Hennessey's life reveals how she blends her veterinary expertise with her athletic prowess, challenging norms and inspiring many.

A Veterinary Visionary:

Dr. Jennifer Hennessey's career in veterinary medicine is nothing short of impressive. With over 25 years of experience, particularly in emergency and critical care, she owns and operates the Animal ER of Northwest Houston. Her clinic, established in 2014, stands as a testament to her vision of providing personalized care to pets and their families, a philosophy that stems from her deep-rooted empathy and professionalism.

Her academic journey, a Cum Laude graduate from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005, laid the groundwork for her extensive career. But Dr. Hennessey didn't stop there; she furthered her expertise by becoming a Certified Veterinary Journalist, actively contributing to veterinary literature and various media outlets. Her passion for animal health education is evident through her regular columns and appearances on TV shows, making her a familiar face in the community.



Building Muscles and Careers:

Away from the ER, Dr. Hennessey takes on a different challenge: bodybuilding. In 2018, she clinched the NPC Universe National Championship, catapulting her into the elite circle of the International Bodybuilding Federation professionals. But her journey in the fitness world is more than just about lifting weights. It's a story of personal transformation, discipline, and resilience, reflecting in her approach to life and work.

Her dedication to bodybuilding is paralleled by her commitment to mentoring the next generation of veterinarians. She is actively involved in supporting veterinary students, offering externships and mentoring programs, highlighting her role as an educator and a role model.

Dr. Hennessey's exceptional work has not gone unnoticed. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious 2021 Best Veterinarian by the Houston Chronicle and the 2019 DVM Top500 US Award. These accolades reflect her dedication to her profession and her ability to excel in multiple arenas.





Personal Insights and Philosophy:

In an interview with Vet Candy Magazine, Dr. Hennessey shared insights that shed light on her multifaceted personality. Her alternative interest in automotive engineering, her advice on lifelong learning, and her emphasis on persistence, resilience, and determination paint a picture of a woman who relentlessly pursues excellence. Her decision to convert her practice to a 24-hour operation during the challenging times of the pandemic showcases her commitment to her community and profession. It also reflects her ability to make tough decisions, balancing professional demands with her role as a mother and a community leader.

Dr. Jennifer Hennessey's life is a narrative of extraordinary accomplishments. Her seamless transition from a veterinarian saving lives in the ER to a bodybuilder pushing the limits of physical strength is a testament to her dynamic personality. Her story goes beyond being just inspirational; it's a powerful reminder of the limitless potential of human determination and the impact one individual can have in diverse fields. In her life, we find a compelling blend of compassion, strength, and relentless pursuit of excellence, setting her apart as a true icon in both veterinary medicine and bodybuilding.

TEXAS A&M CREATES WELLNESS SPACE FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS



In a startling revelation, the United States is not only grappling with a well-documented shortage of veterinarians but is also on the brink of a significant deficit in veterinary technicians. Veterinary Practice News forecasts that by 2030, the nation will require 133,000 vet techs to adequately care for its companion animals, alongside the need for 40,000 veterinarians.

This looming crisis mirrors the challenges faced by veterinarians, including burdensome student debt, inadequate salaries, burnout, and alarmingly high suicide rates. A recent study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association revealed a grim reality: 50% of vet techs leave the profession within their first five years due to burnout, and they face a suicide rate up to five times higher than the general population.

In response to these distressing statistics, the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences' Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) has taken a proactive step to support these essential professionals. The VMTH has inaugurated a new space named "The Grotto," aimed at providing vet techs with a haven to relax, recharge, and connect with peers during their work shifts.

The brainchild of Sherri Jerzyk, a veterinary technician at VMTH's Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Service, The Grotto was born out of a personal tragedy. Jerzyk, who lost three friends in the veterinary technician profession to suicide, developed this project as part of her veterinary social work certificate program, focusing on improving veterinary technician mental health.

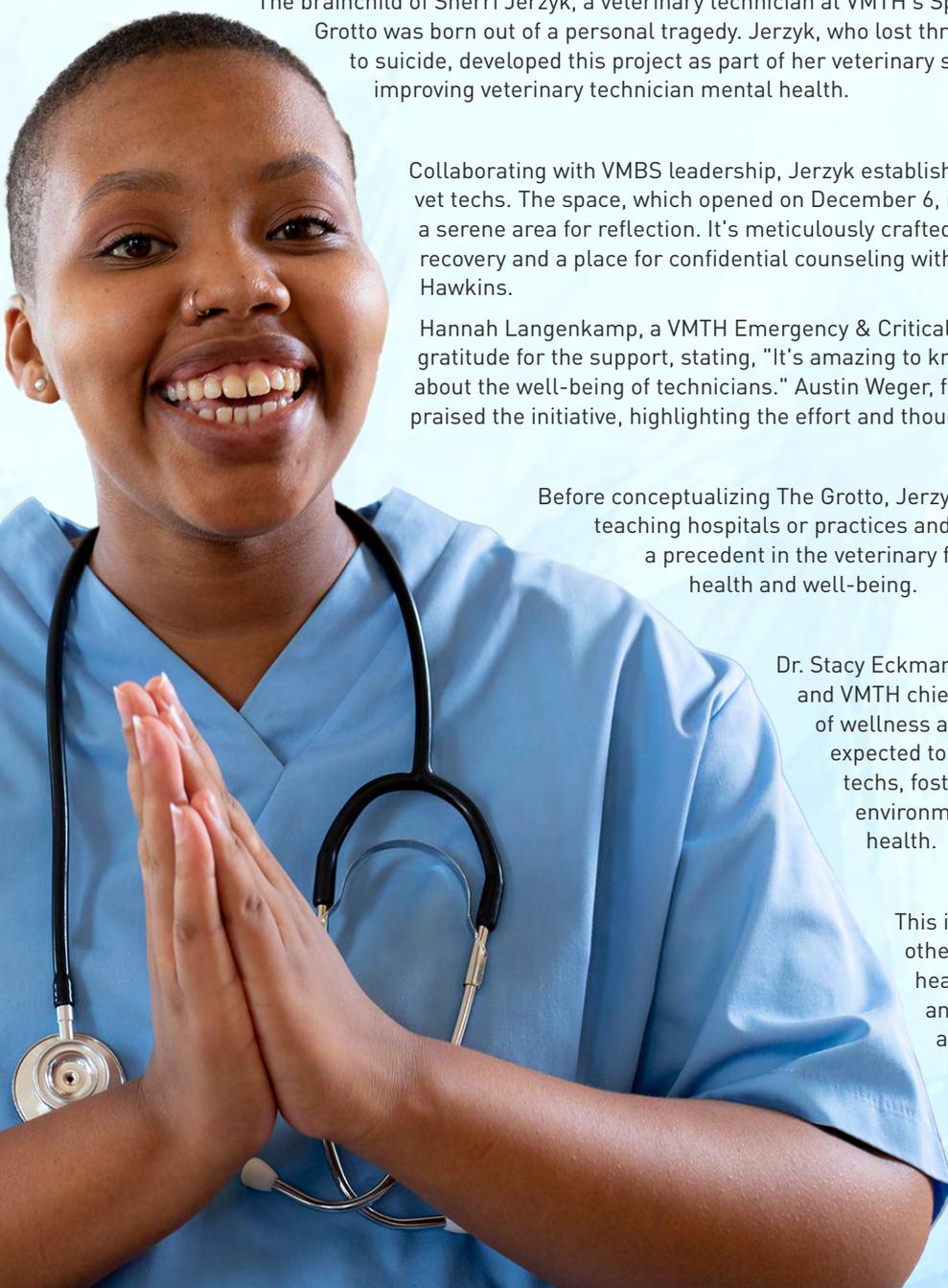
Collaborating with VMBS leadership, Jerzyk established a wellness initiative designed specifically for vet techs. The space, which opened on December 6, includes comfortable seating, a kitchenette, and a serene area for reflection. It's meticulously crafted to provide a sanctuary for mental and physical recovery and a place for confidential counseling with the VMTH's professional counselor, Mike Hawkins.

Hannah Langenkamp, a VMTH Emergency & Critical Care Service veterinary technician, expressed gratitude for the support, stating, "It's amazing to know that there are so many people who care about the well-being of technicians." Austin Weger, from the VMTH's Orthopedics Service, also praised the initiative, highlighting the effort and thought put into creating The Grotto.

Before conceptualizing The Grotto, Jerzyk searched for similar spaces in other veterinary teaching hospitals or practices and found none. This groundbreaking initiative sets a precedent in the veterinary field, emphasizing the importance of mental health and well-being.

Dr. Stacy Eckman, VMBS associate dean for hospital operations and VMTH chief executive officer, underscored the significance of wellness and well-being as top priorities. The Grotto is expected to make a tangible difference in the lives of vet techs, fostering a supportive and compassionate work environment, reducing stress, and enhancing mental health.

This initiative by Texas A&M is a call to action for other veterinary practices to recognize the mental health challenges faced by veterinary technicians and to create similar wellness spaces, thereby addressing a critical component of the veterinary healthcare crisis.



PENN VET STUDENTS SPARK REVOLUTION:

Overhaul of Grueling 100-Hour Work Weeks!

In what marks a significant shift in veterinary education, students at the renowned Penn Veterinary Medicine have successfully advocated for a change in their clinical work schedules, addressing concerns about unsustainable workloads. This move comes after a concerted effort by students to highlight the detrimental effects of excessive work hours on both their education and patient care quality.

Penn Vet, often hailed as one of the top veterinary schools globally, responded to the outcry by implementing changes aimed at limiting student work hours and ensuring adequate rest between on-call shifts. The initiative, communicated through a statement by spokesperson Martin Hackett to *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, signifies a pivotal moment in veterinary education, acknowledging the need for a more balanced approach to clinical training.

The push for change was spearheaded by 65 fourth-year students and recent graduates who courageously signed a letter to the school administration. They detailed their experiences of working weeks exceeding 100 hours, surpassing the guidelines suggested by the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA). While SAVMA does not enforce these guidelines, it strongly encourages institutions to adhere to them for the well-being of students and the quality of care provided to patients.

Penn Vet students, in their final year, undergo unpaid clinical rotations at two of the institution's hospitals: the New Bolton Center, a large-animal facility in Chester County, and the Ryan Veterinary Hospital in University City, which treats smaller companion animals. However, the exhaustive work schedule, particularly at these clinical rotations, raised significant concerns about the students' educational experience and their effectiveness in patient care.

One primary area of concern involved "treatment shifts," where students were tasked with nursing duties such as walking dogs, cleaning litter boxes, and administering medication, in addition to their clinical responsibilities. Students argued that these shifts offered little educational value and seemed to be a makeshift solution to ongoing nursing shortages, all while they were paying over \$60,000 a year in tuition fees.



Following initial reports of these concerns by *The Inquirer* in December, Brady Beale, Chief Medical Officer of Ryan Veterinary Hospital, addressed the students, discrediting some aspects of the reporting and asserting the importance of nursing skills in the veterinary curriculum. Despite these assurances, two fourth-year students, speaking anonymously, revealed that the situation at Ryan Veterinary Hospital remained largely unchanged even months after the promised reforms.

The students' relentless efforts to bring about change, despite nearing graduation and the waning motivation that comes with prolonged struggles, underscore a deep-rooted issue within veterinary education. Their voices have not only shed light on the harsh realities of veterinary training but have also sparked a much-needed dialogue about the balance between educational rigor and student welfare.

This situation at Penn Vet serves as a microcosm of a larger conversation within veterinary education about workload, student well-being, and the quality of veterinary training. As these students move towards graduation, their efforts leave behind a legacy of advocacy and change, setting a precedent for future veterinary students and the institutions that educate them.

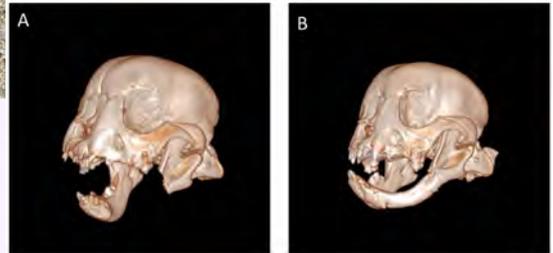
Miracle Puppy Regrows Jaw After Cancer Surgery: A Veterinary First

In a groundbreaking medical event at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Tyson, a three-month-old French bulldog puppy, stunned the veterinary world by spontaneously regrowing his jaw after a significant part of it was removed due to cancer. This extraordinary case, the first of its kind in canine medical history, offers new hope in veterinary oncology.

Tyson's journey began with a visit to the Cornell University Hospital for Animals' Dentistry and Oral Surgery Service for a routine cleft palate surgery. However, a cancerous tumor was discovered on his jaw during a preliminary examination by his primary veterinarian. The diagnosis was oral papillary squamous cell carcinoma – a malignant and aggressive form of cancer in dogs. Dr. Alexandra Wright, a dentistry and oral surgery resident at Cornell, led Tyson's care team through this challenging time.

The decision to remove a major portion of Tyson's lower left mandible was critical but necessary to save his life. This type of surgery typically results in the animal living without a fully functioning lower jaw. Yet, Tyson's story took an unexpected turn. Post-surgery, his jaw began to regrow, an occurrence previously documented in children but never before seen in dogs.

These 3D scans of Tyson show his removed jaw immediately after surgery (left) and eight weeks afterwards (right) with the mandible regrown. Images provided.



Dr. Wright, along with her co-authors Dr. Nadine Fiani and Dr. Santiago Peralta, detailed Tyson's remarkable case in a report published in *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*. They hypothesized that the preservation of a significant amount of periosteum, a thin membrane covering the bone surface, during surgery was crucial for the regeneration of new bone in Tyson's case.

Tyson's recovery defied all odds. While there have been anecdotal instances of partial mandible regeneration in young dogs, Tyson's case was unique due to the extensive amount of bone removed. The early detection of the tumor also played a key role, though the exact mechanisms behind his jaw's regrowth remain largely a mystery.

This incredible case not only signifies a life-saving outcome for Tyson but also opens up new possibilities in veterinary medicine. It underscores the potential for complete bone regeneration, especially in younger patients. Tyson's owners, Melissa Forsythe and Mike Lacagnina, were initially unaware of the possibility of jaw regrowth and are now hopeful that Tyson's case will pave the way for new treatment avenues for other dogs facing similar diagnoses.

Dr. Wright emphasizes the need for further research to understand the likelihood of such occurrences in other dogs and whether age plays a significant role. Nonetheless, Tyson's miraculous recovery stands as a beacon of hope and a testament to the advancements in veterinary medicine.

The full version of this astonishing story, written by Melanie Greaver Cordova, can be found on the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine website, offering an in-depth look into Tyson's medical journey and its implications for future veterinary practices.

Revealed:

The Dog Breeds with the Longest (and Shortest!) Lives

A comprehensive study, recently published in *Scientific Reports*, has unveiled fascinating insights into the life expectancies of different dog breeds in the UK. This extensive research, which delved into the lives of over half a million dogs, could be a game-changer in understanding breed-specific health risks and longevity.

The study, led by Kirsten McMillan and her team, analyzed a massive database of 584,734 dogs sourced from various UK entities including breed registries, veterinary practices, pet insurance companies, animal welfare charities, and academic institutions. The database included a wide array of dogs, spanning 155 pure breeds and numerous crossbreeds. Interestingly, the data also documented the lifespan of 284,734 dogs that had passed away, providing a rich source of information on canine longevity.

One of the study's most striking findings is the correlation between a dog's breed, size, and head shape, and its life expectancy. Small long-nosed breeds, known as dolichocephalic breeds, like Whippets, Miniature Dachshunds, and Shetland Sheepdogs, emerged as the ones with the highest median life expectancy of 13.3 years. On the other end of the spectrum, medium-sized flat-faced breeds, or brachycephalic breeds, such as English Bulldogs, showed the lowest life expectancies, with males averaging just 9.1 years.

The research didn't stop there. It also shed light on the life expectancy of some of the UK's most popular breeds. Labradors, for instance, have a median life expectancy of 13.1 years, while Jack Russell Terriers and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels boast life expectancies of 13.3 and 11.8 years, respectively. Interestingly, purebred dogs tend to live longer than crossbreeds, with a median life expectancy of 12.7 years compared to 12.0 years for crossbreeds. The study also noted a slight edge in longevity for female dogs over males.

It's important to note, however, that these findings are specific to the UK dog population and may not necessarily apply globally. Additionally, the definition of crossbreeds in this study was confined to dogs not recognized as kennel club purebreds.

This groundbreaking research not only offers valuable insights for dog owners and breeders but also has significant implications for veterinary medicine and canine welfare. By highlighting the breeds most at risk of an early death, this study paves the way for more focused healthcare strategies and improved quality of life for our beloved canine companions.



Shocking Study:

Secondhand Smoke Causes Cancer in Dogs

A pivotal long-term study has unveiled a startling link between secondhand smoke and a dramatic increase in bladder cancer risk for Scottish terriers. This finding not only sheds light on canine health but also underscores the broader impacts of cigarette smoke exposure.

Dogs, our loyal companions in everything from search and rescue to emotional support, are now at the forefront of cancer research. This groundbreaking study by Purdue veterinarian Dr. Deborah Knapp reveals that dogs exposed to cigarette smoke are six times more likely to develop bladder cancer. This is particularly significant for Scottish terriers, who are already 20 times more likely to develop this cancer compared to other breeds.

Over three years, 120 Scottish terriers were meticulously studied, revealing that smoke exposure doesn't just impact their environment, but significantly heightens their cancer risk. This research also offers invaluable insights into human cancer risks and the interplay of genetics and environment in cancer development. Intriguingly, the study did not find a connection between lawn chemicals and bladder cancer, a link previously suggested. This could be due to more informed pet owners taking proactive steps to minimize their pets' exposure to such chemicals.

Dr. Knapp's findings are a wake-up call for dog owners. Reducing or eliminating smoke exposure can significantly enhance a dog's health. This study, funded by prestigious bodies like the NIH's National Cancer Institute, is a critical step in understanding and mitigating cancer risks in both dogs and humans.





GROUNDBREAKING

LAB-GROWN DOG SKIN COULD END ANIMAL TESTING FOREVER

Researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute have achieved a scientific breakthrough by growing in-vitro canine skin in the lab for the first time. This innovative full-thickness dog skin, developed from native skin cells, opens new doors for accurately testing medical and grooming products without harming animals.

Dogs, often seen as tough and resilient, actually face a high risk of skin conditions, with 10-15% suffering from atopic dermatitis. Until now, treatment efficacy was hit-or-miss, but this lab-grown skin changes everything.

Dr. Anke Burger-Kentischer and her team at the Fraunhofer Institute pioneered the WowWowSkin project. They've created a skin equivalent that mirrors real dog skin, crucial for testing treatments and grooming products safely and effectively.

The process involved separating skin layers and using special enzymes to create immortal cells, which were then cultured to form a full-thickness skin model. This model can be used to test the impact of products and treatments, ensuring they're safe for our canine companions.

The team's success not only aids in developing better treatments for dogs but also paves the way for cruelty-free testing methods. With an eye on future developments, they plan to extend this research to cover different dog breeds and even create similar models for horses and cats.



Revolutionary Trial Aims to Turn Back Time for Senior Dogs:

Meet Boo, the Whippet Pioneering a New Era of Canine Longevity!

Loyal, the biotech trailblazer in pet longevity, has embarked on a groundbreaking journey with the launch of its STAY study, administering the first dose of the promising LOY-002 drug to Boo, an 11-year-old Whippet. This monumental trial is not just a medical first but a beacon of hope for pet owners dreaming of more quality time with their aging furry friends.

LOY-002, the latest innovation from Loyal, is at the forefront of extending the healthy, vibrant years of senior dogs. With an ambitious vision, the study aims to redefine aging in canines, blending cutting-edge science with heartfelt care.

The trial is monumental, standing as the most extensive of its kind. Over 50 independent veterinary clinics are joining forces, welcoming over 1,000 senior dogs to partake in this four-year journey. The goal? To pave the way for LOY-002's FDA approval, promising a future where man's best friend stays by their side, healthier and happier, for longer.

Boo, the star of this mission, isn't just any participant. Still an avid scent work competitor, his spirited nature embodies the very essence of what LOY-002 strives to preserve. Deb Hanna, Boo's devoted owner, sees this as more than a trial; it's a chance to change lives, potentially blessing her younger dogs with a longer, fuller future.

But this trial is more than numbers and data; it's about heart, commitment, and a shared dream. Loyal CEO Celine Halioua, alongside a dedicated team of veterinarians, technicians, and dog lovers, is set on making a lasting impact. Beyond the immediate, the study also lays the groundwork for a broader vision, collecting invaluable biological samples to spearhead further breakthroughs in both canine and human longevity.

As veterinary clinics nationwide gear up for enrollment, the excitement is palpable. Dr. Coby Rudakewiz, the study's leading investigator, sees LOY-002 as a beacon of hope, a testament to the love we share with our pets.

With a potential early 2025 release, the daily beef-flavored pill promises not just extended life, but enhanced life, delaying the shadow of age-related ailments. And as the data pours in over the next four years, the dream of LOY-002 becoming a staple in canine care inches closer to reality.

For Loyal, for pet owners, and for the more than 15 million senior dogs in the US, including Halioua's own beloved Rottweiler, Della, this isn't just a trial. It's a step towards a future where every wag, every nuzzle, and every moment with our furry companions is treasured just a little longer.

Groundbreaking

Lab-Grown Dog Skin Could End Animal Testing Forever



Researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute have achieved a scientific breakthrough by growing in-vitro canine skin in the lab for the first time. This innovative full-thickness dog skin, developed from native skin cells, opens new doors for accurately testing medical and grooming products without harming animals.

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The team's success not only aids in developing better treatments for dogs but also paves the way for cruelty-free testing methods. With an eye on future developments, they plan to extend this research to cover different dog breeds and even create similar models for horses and cats.

New publication describes findings on cat evolution, to aid in future disease studies

Morris Animal Foundation-funded researchers have delved into various cat species' entire DNA sequence (genome), uncovering novel perspectives on domestic and wild cat evolution. This new work highlights distinct genetic changes and will be a critical tool for researchers investigating feline diseases and characteristics.

This study, which led to the findings published in *Nature Genetics*, used cutting-edge genome sequencing and assembly technologies to generate a more comprehensive and complete cat genome assembly, providing fundamental information on the feline blueprint and aiding in advancements in feline medicine.

"This is an ongoing effort because it's very difficult to fill in the missing gaps in the genome sequence, and those gaps aren't just junk," said Dr. William Murphy, the study's principal investigator and Professor of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences at Texas A&M University.

During the study, Murphy and his team identified fewer segmental duplications – duplicated blocks of genomic DNA – in cats compared to other mammal groups while also learning that numerous variances exist in feline DNA. These insights are crucial for those studying feline diseases, behavior and conservation, Murphy said.

"This initial study was just scratching the surface," Murphy said. "Now we're going to be able to use this to go in and start determining the function of parts of the domestic cat genome that were missing before."

The \$202,938 grant from Morris Animal Foundation empowered Murphy and his team to leverage cutting-edge genome sequencing and assembly technologies, Murphy added.

"Without Morris Animal Foundation's funding and support for the feline genome project, we would not even be close to where we are now (to filling in the gaps)," Murphy said. "We wouldn't have had the funding to advance and use the latest technologies to get the cat genome on par with the human genome."

Murphy said that while the feline genome is not yet 100% gapless, ongoing refinements, backed by prior grants from Morris Animal Foundation, aim to achieve a comprehensive, telomere-to-telomere feline genome – essential to uncover crucial genetic information.



Historic Win:

Dr. Deepan Kishore Becomes First Indian Vet to Clinch Oklahoma's Top Veterinary Honor!

Breaking News:

The Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) has just made a historic announcement at their annual conference! Dr. Deepan Kishore, DVM, MS, DAVBP (Canine & Feline), and Founding ER Fellow, has been named the Veterinarian of the Year, becoming the first Indian-Origin veterinarian to receive this prestigious award in Oklahoma.

From his early days at Madras Veterinary College in India to mastering his skills at the University of Missouri and Oklahoma State University, Dr. Kishore's journey has been nothing short of inspirational. His mentorship experiences at Neel Veterinary Hospital in Oklahoma City, under the guidance of Dr. Tina Neel and others, paved his path to excellence in the state.

As a Specialist Diplomate with the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners and a 2022 ABVP Founding ER Fellow, Dr. Kishore has shown exemplary dedication to his field. His heartfelt gratitude to his mentors, family, and colleagues upon receiving the award reflects his humble and passionate approach to veterinary care.

Dr. Kishore's influence extends beyond medical treatments. His mentorship of students and new vets in emergency and specialty care at Neel Veterinary Hospital showcases his commitment to nurturing the next generation of veterinary professionals.

His nominator, Dr. Neel, lauds him as a superstar with a significant impact on advancing their hospital, particularly in cancer research and complex surgical procedures. Dr. Kishore's life-saving skills have not only won him this award but also the hearts of many, including Neel Veterinary Hospital's Practice Manager, Katy Hawkins, whose dog's life he saved.

A proud Indian, cricket enthusiast, family man, and dog lover, Dr. Kishore's story is an inspiring tale of cultural heritage, professional excellence, and personal dedication. Congratulations to Dr. Deepan Kishore on this monumental achievement!



Startling Truth:

Euthanizing Animals Sparks Veterinarian Suicidal Thoughts – Unveiling the Disturbing Study Results

Helene Seljenes Dalum recently completed her doctorate at IMB, taking a significant step toward unraveling the underlying causes of veterinarians experiencing suicidal thoughts. Her research delves into a critical issue that has long plagued the veterinary profession.

An earlier Norwegian study, spanning from 1960 to 2000, shed light on a disturbing statistic: the suicide rate among veterinarians was twice that of the general population during that period.

Dalum's extensive research, known as the NORVET project, revealed a distressing link between euthanizing animals and the prevalence of serious suicidal thoughts among veterinarians. This groundbreaking study was recently published in the journal *BMC Psychiatry*.

To collect data, Dalum extended an invitation to all veterinarians in Norway to participate in a comprehensive questionnaire. Remarkably, she received responses from approximately 2,600 veterinarians, representing an impressive 75% of those contacted.

The notion that euthanizing animals might be a risk factor for suicide among veterinarians is not new. Studies conducted in various countries have consistently shown that veterinarians find euthanasia emotionally distressing, leading to moral strain and work-related stress. However, Dalum's research has now unveiled a startling correlation between euthanasia and suicidal thoughts, marking a crucial discovery that warrants further investigation.

As a veterinarian herself, Dalum emphasizes the need to validate this link through additional studies. Euthanasia, or assisted dying, is a process that veterinarians often encounter in their profession. It involves ending an animal's life, either at the owner's request or due to health reasons.

While euthanasia for humans remains illegal in Norway, it remains a topic of ongoing debate. Attitudes towards euthanasia for humans may offer insights into people's perspectives on death.

Notably, Dalum's study found that veterinarians specializing in family pets exhibited more positive attitudes towards euthanasia for humans than their counterparts in other veterinary fields. This intriguing observation highlights the complex relationship veterinarians have with euthanasia.

The distressing statistics in Dalum's research reveal the challenges veterinarians face. Nearly 30% of veterinarians in Norway have experienced moments where life did not seem worth living in the past year. A worrying 5% have grappled with serious suicidal thoughts, and shockingly, 1 in 500 veterinarians has attempted suicide.

The underlying reasons for the disproportionately high suicide rate among veterinarians have remained largely unexplored until now. The NORVET study now suggests that euthanizing animals may represent a significant risk factor within this professional group.

Several studies have previously indicated that veterinarians receive insufficient training in handling emotionally demanding clinical situations, particularly euthanasia. The fact that mental health is now gaining prominence within the veterinary community is undoubtedly a positive development, as noted by Dalum.

The findings of Helene Seljenes Dalum's research serve as a sobering wake-up call, highlighting the urgent need for increased awareness and support for the mental well-being of veterinarians who dedicate their lives to caring for animals and their owners.

Miracle Pooch Beats the Odds: Rare Diabetes Remission in Miniature Schnauzer

Astonishing Medical Tale:

How an 8-Year-Old Schnauzer Overcame Diabetes, Challenging Veterinary Beliefs

In a remarkable medical case, an 8-year-old male neutered Miniature Schnauzer defied the odds by achieving diabetic remission, an extremely rare occurrence in dogs. This exceptional story unfolds after the dog was diagnosed with diabetes mellitus following classic symptoms of increased thirst and urination.

Initial Diagnosis and Treatment Success

The diagnosis was made based on elevated blood sugar levels and the presence of glucose in the urine, in accordance with the standards set by the Agreeing Language in Veterinary Endocrinology. The Schnauzer was put on a regimen of insulin injections and specialized dietary management. Over the next year, the insulin dose was gradually reduced, with constant monitoring of blood glucose levels. Surprisingly, the dog reached a state of euglycemia (normal blood sugar levels) and even hypoglycemia (low blood sugar levels).

A Turnaround in Health

The real twist in the tale came when insulin therapy was completely stopped, and the dog remained symptom-free for an entire year. This period of remission is particularly noteworthy given that diabetic remission is a common phenomenon in cats and humans but is exceedingly rare in dogs. Typically, remission in dogs is associated with specific conditions like diestrus or pregnancy.

The Return of Diabetes and Lifelong Management

Unfortunately, after a year of remission, the dog's diabetes symptoms reemerged, necessitating the resumption of insulin therapy for the rest of its life. Despite this, the case stands as a testament to the possibility of diabetic remission in dogs, challenging the prevailing understanding of the disease's progression in canine patients.

This inspiring case not only highlights the individual variability in medical conditions like diabetes in dogs but also opens up new avenues for veterinary research and hope for pet owners dealing with similar challenges.



THE NOT SO HIDDEN STRUGGLE:

By Quisha Brown

The Unfortunate Reality of Abuse Faced by Veterinary Staff from Clients

The veterinary profession, dedicated to the well-being of animals, is facing a dark underbelly that often goes unnoticed – the abuse of veterinary staff by clients. While the vast majority of pet owners are respectful and appreciative of the care their animals receive, a concerning number of incidents reveal a disturbing trend of mistreatment towards those who work tirelessly to safeguard the health and happiness of our beloved pets. In this article, we shed light on the often-overlooked issue of abuse directed at veterinary staff and its far-reaching consequences

Verbal Abuse:

One of the most prevalent forms of abuse faced by veterinary professionals is verbal abuse. Clients, frustrated by the emotional and financial stress of dealing with sick or injured pets, may lash out at veterinary staff. Harsh words, insults, and unkind remarks not only hurt the morale of the professionals but can also create a hostile work environment.

Threats and Intimidation:

In extreme cases, veterinary staff may face threats and intimidation from clients. These threats can range from verbal warnings to physical harm, creating a dangerous atmosphere for professionals who are simply trying to provide the best care for animals. Such incidents not only compromise the safety of the staff but also instill fear and anxiety within the entire veterinary team.

Disrespect for Professional Opinions:

Veterinary professionals undergo years of education and training to provide expert opinions on the health and well-being of animals. However, some clients may disregard or belittle these professional insights, creating a challenging dynamic. The disrespect for professional opinions not only undermines the expertise of the veterinary staff but can also compromise the quality of care provided to the animals.

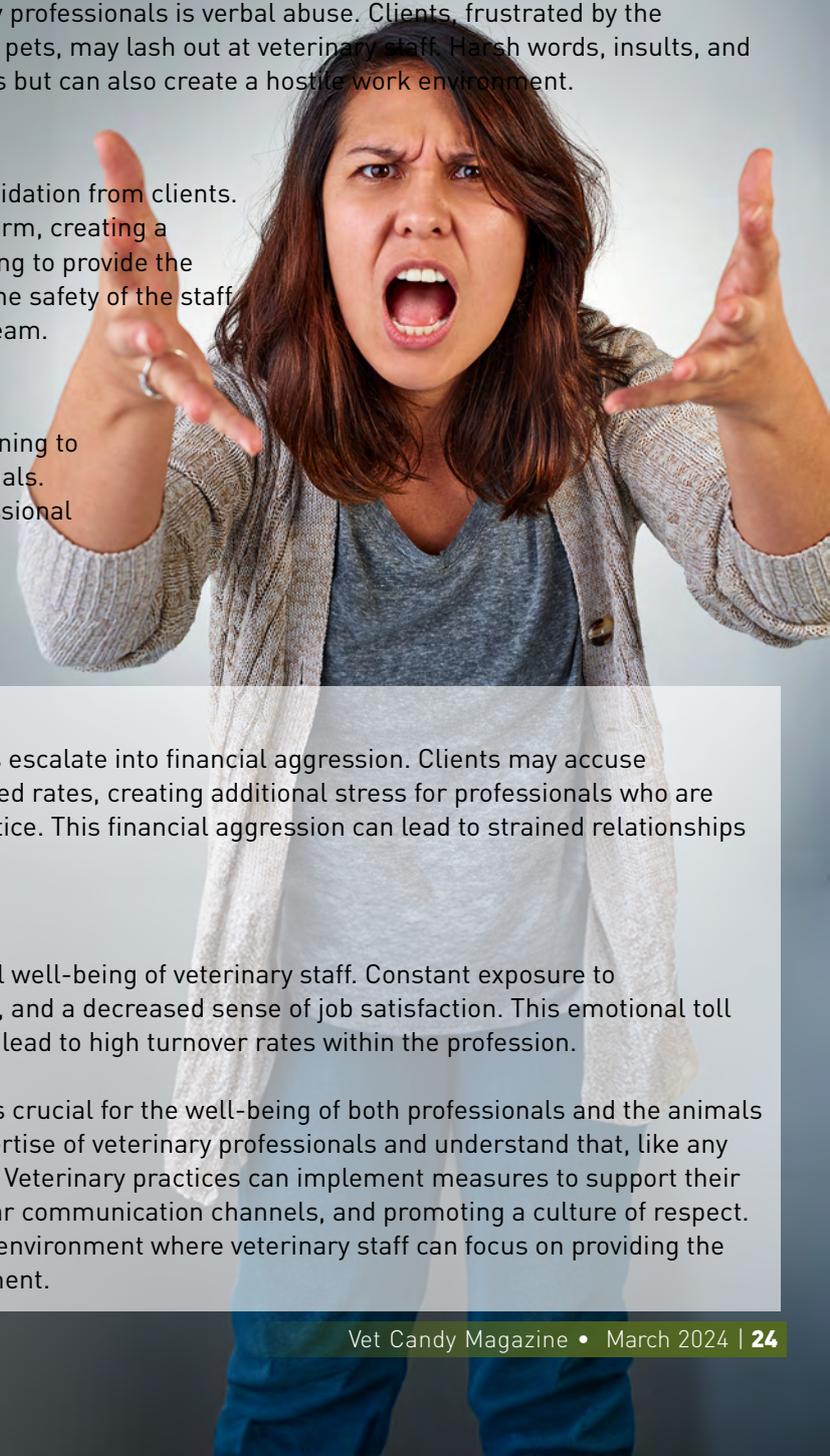
Financial Aggression:

Discussions about the cost of veterinary care can sometimes escalate into financial aggression. Clients may accuse veterinary staff of overcharging or demand services at reduced rates, creating additional stress for professionals who are already managing the financial challenges of running a practice. This financial aggression can lead to strained relationships and a sense of devaluation among veterinary professionals.

Emotional Toll and Burnout:

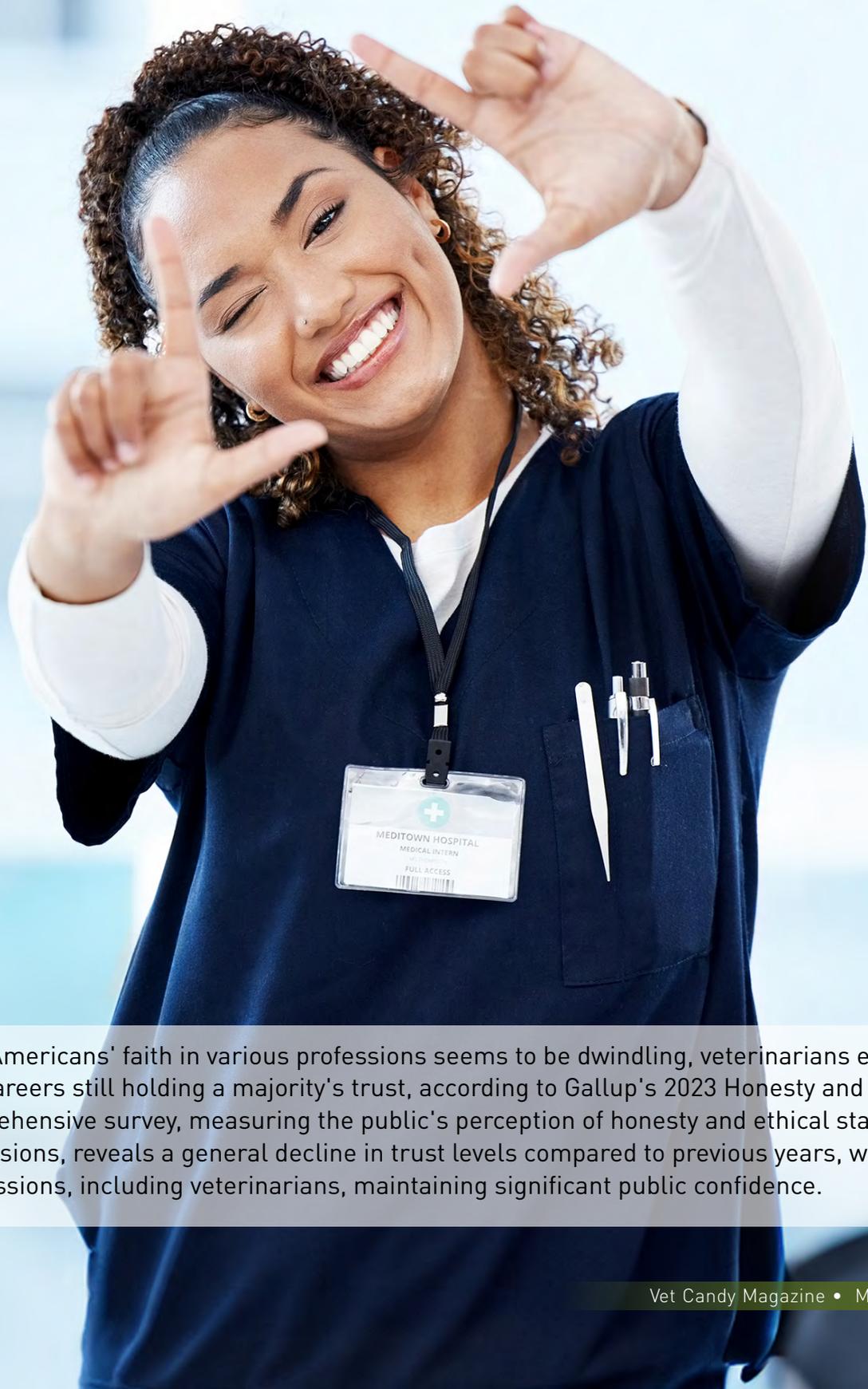
The cumulative impact of abuse takes a toll on the emotional well-being of veterinary staff. Constant exposure to mistreatment can contribute to burnout, compassion fatigue, and a decreased sense of job satisfaction. This emotional toll not only affects the mental health of individuals but can also lead to high turnover rates within the profession.

Addressing the abuse faced by veterinary staff from clients is crucial for the well-being of both professionals and the animals they care for. Clients must recognize the dedication and expertise of veterinary professionals and understand that, like any healthcare provider, they deserve respect and consideration. Veterinary practices can implement measures to support their staff, such as training in conflict resolution, establishing clear communication channels, and promoting a culture of respect. By working together to address this issue, we can create an environment where veterinary staff can focus on providing the best care for our furry companions without fear of mistreatment.



Trust in Tatters:

Veterinarians Among the Few Trusted Professions in Latest Ethics Poll



In a time when Americans' faith in various professions seems to be dwindling, veterinarians emerge as one of the few careers still holding a majority's trust, according to Gallup's 2023 Honesty and Ethics poll. This comprehensive survey, measuring the public's perception of honesty and ethical standards across 23 professions, reveals a general decline in trust levels compared to previous years, with only a handful of professions, including veterinarians, maintaining significant public confidence.

A Decline in Trust Across the Board

The latest findings from the Gallup poll, conducted from December 1-20, 2023, show a noticeable dip in Americans' ratings of nearly all surveyed professions. This downward trend is stark compared to the data from recent years. For instance, labor union leaders, whose trust ratings have not declined since 2019, still only garner a modest approval of 25% for their honesty and ethics. Nurses, traditionally holding the top spot for trustworthiness, have experienced a decline too. Although they remain the most trusted profession, with 78% of U.S. adults affirming their high ethical standards, these numbers represent a 7-point drop from 2019 and an 11-point fall from their peak in 2020.

Veterinarians: A Beacon of Trust

In stark contrast to the general trend, veterinarians have maintained a relatively high level of public trust. Gallup last surveyed opinions about veterinarians in 2006, finding that 71% of U.S. adults viewed them as highly ethical. Fast forward to 2023, and veterinarians still command a respectable 65% approval rating, demonstrating their enduring reputation for honesty and ethical conduct.

The Least Trusted Professions

At the other end of the spectrum, the poll paints a grim picture for certain professions. Members of Congress, senators, car salespeople, and advertising practitioners find themselves at the bottom of the ethical ladder, with single-digit ratings that have either worsened or stagnated. This decline is part of a broader pattern, where all but one profession (excluding veterinarians) have seen their honesty and ethics ratings drop by an average of six points since 2019.

Other Professions with Majority Approval

Despite the overall negative trend, a few other professions join nurses and veterinarians in maintaining majority-level positive ratings. These include engineers, dentists, medical doctors, and pharmacists, indicating that the public still places considerable trust in healthcare and technical professions.



Historic Lows and Concerning Trends

The poll also highlights new lows in ethics ratings for five professions – including members of Congress, senators, journalists, clergy, and pharmacists – with three others tying their historical lows. This is indicative of a growing skepticism among the public regarding various professional sectors.

The 2023 Gallup Honesty and Ethics poll reveals a significant shift in public opinion, with trust in most professions declining. In these challenging times, veterinarians stand out as one of the few professions that continue to hold the public's trust, a testament to their enduring commitment to ethical practices and honesty in their dealings with both animals and their human companions. As trust becomes an increasingly scarce commodity in various professional realms, the role of veterinarians as trusted community members becomes ever more vital.



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