

B. STABLE, LONG-RANGE FUNDING FOR RESEARCH, INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS, AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION

The heavy emphasis in our society on research and public health exerts a substantial influence on veterinary medical education. It requires additional faculty competent to teach highly specialized subjects; the acquisition and operation of modern sophisticated teaching aids; the development and long-range funding of research-oriented instructional programs; the establishment of multiple-service laboratories; multiplication of seminars and self-learning courses of all kinds, and the expansion of personnel to coordinate and administer these programs.

C. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW VETERINARY COLLEGES

There are 18 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States. Even with expansion, these colleges will be unable to supply all the veterinarians needed in the years ahead. Moreover, many qualified students from the 33 states lacking a veterinary college find it impossible to obtain a veterinary education. In recent years, several states have considered establishing new veterinary colleges but have postponed action because of the high cost of construction, maintenance, staffing and operating a college of veterinary medicine.

D. LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO VETERINARY MEDICAL STUDENTS TO FINANCE THEIR EDUCATION

A survey of deans of American veterinary colleges reveals that (1) many students are unable to achieve an acceptable level of scholastic performance in their professional studies because of the necessity to work excessively long hours at part-time jobs to support themselves, (2) many students who would prefer to be veterinarians elect other degree programs because of their inability to finance 6 or more years of veterinary education.

II. JUSTIFICATION FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT

Veterinarians for the 50 United States are supplied by 18 veterinary colleges in 17 states. Consequently, they are national resources in the fullest sense. It is eminently logical, therefore, that federal support be extended to these colleges.

Because of the high cost, it is unlikely that each state can support a college of veterinary medicine on its own. Therefore, each veterinary school will continue to enroll students from states having no veterinary college.

For the foreseeable future, existing colleges probably could supply the needs of their own 17 states with state funds. But it is unreasonable to expect these states to finance the total expansion of veterinary medical educational facilities that is required nationally to meet the growing need for veterinarians.

In some parts of the United States, those states without veterinary medical colleges have entered into agreements with schools in nearby states. However, even where a contract exists, the percentage of applicants admitted from contract states is much smaller than that from the state in which the school is located. Obviously, equal educational opportunity does not exist for aspiring veterinary medical students throughout the United States. Passage of the Medical Manpower Act of 1968 would do much toward providing equal educational opportunity for all students who wish to study veterinary medicine.

Modern veterinary medicine has achieved a high level of scientific sophistication and performance. Its contributions to human health and welfare establish veterinary education as a precious national resource which must be supported and promoted in the national interest.

III. THE SERVICES OF VETERINARY MEDICINE TO SOCIETY

1. ANIMAL HEALTH PROTECTION

Farm Animals

Approximately 10,000 veterinarians care for the nation's farm animals. These practicing veterinarians protect the health of farm animals supplying protein food vital to healthy human nutrition. The demand for protein food is increasing and will continue to increase in order to meet the needs of a rapidly increasing population.

The veterinary practitioner also cooperates with state and federal veterinarians in the eradication or control of major livestock diseases many of which, such as