

A large part of veterinarians' professional activity is directed toward protection of the consuming public. One primary responsibility of veterinarians is the prevention of human illness derived from animal sources. In response to the nationwide demand for consumer protection, Congress in 1967 passed the Wholesome Meat Act (Public Law 90-201) and the 90th Congress will consider at least three bills pertaining to inspection of poultry and poultry meat products. The Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of August 24, 1966 (Public Law 89-544) has placed vast responsibilities upon veterinarians to initiate and execute a nationwide program for laboratory animal welfare. The above new national programs demand hundreds of veterinarians at a time when there is already a critical shortage of veterinary medical manpower.

Studies have indicated the need for doubling the number of veterinarians by 1980 and more than tripling the number of veterinarians in several fields of specialization in veterinary medicine by 1975.

The gigantic task for increasing the number of veterinarians is currently the responsibility of the eighteen veterinary medical schools and colleges located in seventeen states of our nation. Veterinary medical colleges have been unable to capitalize upon well established new educational techniques because they were denied the educational improvement grants provided to other health professional colleges under Public Law 90-290. Insufficient funds have handicapped educator's attempts to adopt modern methods of education—such as classroom use of computers, closed circuit television, and autodidactic laboratories—to veterinary medical education. Achievement of minimal goals for increased enrollment and maintenance of the quality of professional education requires vast increased financial support. Experience has clearly demonstrated that adequate funds for development and expansion cannot be provided by the seventeen states which are currently attempting to educate veterinary medical personnel for all fifty states. Facilities and operational support are not adequate even for the number of students currently enrolled in the veterinary medical colleges in this country.

If enrollment is to be increased, it is imperative that veterinary medical colleges be included in future legislation relating to the following support of education in the health professions: educational improvement grants, construction of teaching and research facilities, institutional support for innovations in veterinary education, and student loans and scholarship grants.

THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARIAN IN OUR SOCIETY

The activities of all veterinarians contribute to public health. Veterinary medicine is concerned with the health and well-being of animals *and* man. It is concerned with the control of diseases transmissible from animal to man and with the discovery of new knowledge in comparative medicine. During the past twenty-five years, activity in comparative medicine and the biomedical sciences has increased at a spectacular rate and has greatly expanded the role of the veterinary medical profession.

Public health responsibilities of the veterinarian

A large proportion of veterinarians' professional activity is directed toward protection of the consuming public. The primary objectives of the veterinarian are to prevent human illness derived from animal sources and to protect the health of animals.

Veterinarians carry a large responsibility in the field of public health. Many state and municipal codes require at least one veterinarian on the board of health. According to a 1960 report of the Ohio Department of Health, veterinarians have the largest representation of any professional group serving on local health boards.

Veterinary medicine provides specific benefits to human health in three major ways: (1) Removal of sources of infection to man through eradication or control of those animal diseases transmissible to man, (2) Development of preventives or treatments that can be adapted for use in man, and (3) Development of food hygiene programs that protect the consumer against food-borne diseases.

Removal of sources of infection.—More than 100 diseases of animals are transmissible to man. In 1945, 10,000 cases of rabies were reported in animals, and thousands of people in our nation were treated for this deadly disease. As a result of research and training, the incidence of this disease has dropped more than 50 per cent in the past fifteen years, and 1967 marks the first year