

2010 HOD Environmental Scan of Critical Issues
Categories
July 9, 2010

Critical Issue Categories:

1. Animal Welfare –tackling species-specific issues, proactive/progressive policies, necessity of unified message, low awareness of AVMA policies by veterinarians and students, deficit of animal welfare training in veterinary school curriculum and continuing education, public not aware of veterinary leadership role, cost considerations in animal welfare recommendations, access to veterinary services by indigent pet owners.
2. Education and Research – competence and preparation of graduates, curriculum reform, rising educational debt-new graduate debt and starting salaries unmanageable, declining funding, rising tuition, recruitment of students, admission standards, student diversity, research funding.
3. Scope of Practice – non-DVM practice infringement, state legislation, paraprofessionals for shortage areas, local government restricting practice act, alternative practice services, restriction on prescription drug dispensing.
4. Veterinary Practice Economics – affordability of veterinary services, rising business costs, increasing market segmentation in veterinary service delivery.
5. Workforce – professional leadership, association membership, organizational and workforce diversity, employment shortages and needs, employment of credentialed veterinary technicians.