Doctors of veterinary medicine are medical professionals who play significant roles in the health and welfare of animals, human public health, medical research, and public safety. The doctor of veterinary medicine degree can lead to diverse career opportunities and a variety of lifestyles. About 70 percent of veterinarians are in some form of private practice. However, significant numbers are involved in preventive medicine, regulatory veterinary medicine, military veterinary medicine, laboratory animal medicine, industrial research and development, teaching, and research in a variety of basic science and clinical disciplines.

Overview of Careers in Veterinary Medicine

Animal Health – Zoo Medicine, Avian medicine/science, wildlife health, private practice – companion animal medicine, large animal medicine including farm animals and equine medicine

Specialty Practice – anesthesiology, camelid medicine and surgery, clinical cardiology, clinical oncology, dermatology, emergency/critical care, equine medicine, equine surgery, food animal medicine and surgery, small animal surgery, neurology/neurosurgery, ophthalmology, radiation oncology, radiology, small animal internal medicine, small animal surgery, theriogenology, pathology.

Teaching and Research – educating future veterinarians, educating public health officials, testing for and studying diseases, basic clinical research and translating cures to human health and laboratory animal medicine.

Public Health – Epidemiology (investigating disease trends), food safety, zoonosis, environmental health programs, biomedical and homeland security

Government Service – State and federal regulatory agencies, diagnostic laboratories, U.S. Army and Air Force veterinarians

Private Industry – Pharmaceutical research companies, biomedical research firms, agricultural chemical industry, private testing laboratories, feed, livestock, and poultry industries