

Facts & Figures

Employment and age of male and female AVMA members, 2003

- ▶ Among all employment categories, the percentages of male and female members were highest in small animal exclusive practice.
- ▶ Mean age of an actively employed AVMA member was 45.1 years.

On December 31, 2003, the AVMA membership database contained 63,259 actively employed US veterinarians classified as presently employed, recent graduate, or involved in a full-time educational program. Veterinarians who were identified as retired, disabled, not active in veterinary medicine, or living in foreign countries were not included in this analysis.

Employment Categories

Nearly three fourths (73.1%) of actively employed AVMA member veterinarians were in private practice, 13.4% were in public or corporate practice, and 13.5%

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didn't specify their employment type for the membership database (Table 1). The majority (62.7%) of private practice veterinarians were small animal exclusive practitioners. The remaining private practice veterinarians were classified as small animal predominant (11.8%), mixed animal (8.3%), large animal predominant (5.9%), equine (4.7%), large animal exclusive (4.0%), all other species (1.1%), and no classification specified (1.6%).

Among female veterinarians in private practice, 72% were in small animal exclusive practice, which was far greater than in any other private practice category. Among male veterinarians, 55.9% were in small animal exclusive practice, which was also far greater than any other private practice category.

In the public or corporate sector, nearly half (46.7%) of actively employed AVMA member veterinarians were college or university veterinarians (Table 1). Industry employed 18.3% of public or corporate veterinarians, the federal government employed 7.6%, state or local governments employed 6.5%, uniformed services employed 5.7%, industry employed 2.5%, and other public or corporate sectors employed 15.2%. The percentage of female veterinarians employed in col-

Table 1—Distribution of female and male AVMA members among employment categories, 2003.

Employment category	All veterinarians	Female	Male
	No. (%) [*]	No. (%) [†]	No. (%) [‡]
Private practice			
Large animal exclusive	1,867 (3.0)	322 (1.7)	1,545 (5.8)
Large animal predominant	2,709 (4.3)	397 (2.0)	2,312 (8.6)
Mixed animal	3,817 (6.0)	1,277 (6.6)	2,540 (9.5)
Small animal exclusive	28,986 (45.8)	13,969 (72.0)	15,017 (55.9)
Small animal predominant	5,454 (8.6)	2,121 (10.9)	3,333 (12.4)
Equine	2,156 (3.4)	785 (4.0)	1,371 (5.1)
Other species	495 (0.8)	217 (1.1)	278 (1.0)
None specified	760 (1.2)	305 (1.6)	455 (1.7)
Total	46,244 (73.1)	19,393 (100.0)	26,851 (100.0)
Public or corporate employment			
College or university	3,950 (6.2)	1,730 (48.9)	2,220 (45.1)
Federal government	645 (1.0)	233 (6.6)	412 (8.4)
State or local government	553 (0.9)	205 (5.8)	348 (7.1)
Uniformed services	479 (0.8)	179 (5.1)	300 (6.1)
Industry	1,551 (2.5)	495 (14.0)	1,056 (21.4)
Other	1,282 (2.0)	693 (19.6)	589 (12.0)
Total	8,460 (13.4)	3,535 (100.0)	4,925 (100.0)
Employment unknown	8,555 (13.5)		
Overall total	63,259 (100.0)		

^{*}Percentage of veterinarians in each category, compared with all veterinarians.
[†]Percentage of female veterinarians in each category, compared with all female veterinarians in private practice or in public or corporate employment.
[‡]Percentage of male veterinarians in each category, compared with all male veterinarians in private practice or in public or corporate employment.

leges or universities (48.9%) was far higher than in all other categories; this was also true for male veterinarians (45.1%).

Among all practicing veterinarians, the female to male ratio was 44.9% female to 55.1% male (Table 2). In private practice, the ratio was 41.9% female to 58.1% male. The percentage of males was much greater than that of females in large animal exclusive (82.8%

male vs 17.2% female) and large animal predominant (85.3% male vs 14.7% female) practices. Similar to private practice, the ratio of females to males in public or corporate practice was 41.8% female to 58.2% male. In the public or corporate sector, the largest difference in distribution between female and male (31.9% females vs 68.1% males) was found in industry.

Table 2—Ratios of female and male AVMA member veterinarians in various employment categories, 2003.

Employment category	Female (%)	Male (%)
Private practice		
Large animal exclusive	17.2	82.8
Large animal predominant	14.7	85.3
Mixed animal	33.5	66.5
Small animal exclusive	48.2	51.8
Small animal predominant	38.9	61.1
Equine	36.4	63.6
Other species	43.8	56.2
None specified	40.1	59.9
Total	41.9	58.1
Public or corporate employment		
College or university	43.8	56.2
Federal government	36.1	63.9
State or local government	37.1	62.9
Uniformed services	37.4	62.6
Industry	31.9	68.1
Other	54.1	45.9
Total	41.8	58.2
Overall Total	44.9	55.1

Mean Age of Actively Employed Veterinarians

Mean age of an actively employed AVMA member veterinarian was 45.1 years (Table 3). Mean age of a private practice veterinarian (46.0 years) was slightly less than the mean age of large animal exclusive, large animal predominant, and small animal predominant veterinarians and greater than the mean age of mixed animal, small animal exclusive, equine, and other-species veterinarians. Among private practice veterinarians, mean age was 41.1 years for females and 49.6 years for males.

Mean age among actively working public or corporate veterinarians was 47.0 years; mean ages greater than this value were found among federal government, state and local government, and industry veterinarians. College and university, uniformed services, and other public and corporate sectors employed veterinarians with mean ages less than the mean age of all public or corporate veterinarians. Mean age of female public or corporate veterinarians was 42.5 years, whereas the mean age of males was 50.3 years.

Table 3—Mean ages (y) of female and male AVMA member veterinarians among types of employment, 2003.

Employment category	All veterinarians		Female		Male	
	No.	Mean age	No.	Mean age	No.	Mean age
Private practice						
Large animal exclusive	1,861	47.3	320	40.8	1,541	48.6
Large animal predominant	2,709	48.4	397	41.2	2,312	49.6
Mixed animal	3,806	45.0	1,272	39.4	2,534	47.7
Small animal exclusive	28,953	45.6	13,946	41.0	15,007	49.8
Small animal predominant	5,449	47.3	2,119	42.7	3,330	50.3
Equine	2,151	45.5	782	39.7	1,369	48.8
Other species	494	45.6	217	41.0	277	49.1
None specified	759	48.2	305	44.1	454	50.9
Total	46,182	46.0	19,358	41.1	26,824	49.6
Public and corporate employment						
College or university	3,940	45.9	1,724	41.5	2,216	49.4
Federal government	645	50.5	233	45.4	412	53.4
State or local government	553	50.7	205	45.0	348	54.4
Uniformed services	478	43.0	179	39.0	299	45.4
Industry	1,549	49.0	493	45.0	1,056	50.9
Other	1,281	45.9	692	42.1	589	50.4
Total	8,446	47.0	3,526	42.5	4,920	50.3
Employment unknown	7,438	37.5	4,689	35.4	2,749	41.1
Overall total*	62,066	45.1	27,573	40.3	34,493	49.0

*Reduced base—not all birth date information available. Mean data derived July 2004.