

Letters to the Editor

Shortage or salaries?

I enjoyed reading the recent *JAVMA* News article “Veterinarian shortage or salaries not keeping up?”¹ The suggestion from Dr. Fred Ouedraogo that “What is happening in the veterinary profession might not be a shortage but a mismatch in price” is spot on. It should come as no surprise that there seems to be a lack of veterinarians to fill associate-level positions. Veterinarians are indeed graduating each year, but they are not taking associate jobs as readily as they used to. They are blazing their own paths, specializing, or using their veterinary degrees in numerous ways other than clinical practice. There is a chasm between the cost of a veterinary education and the value placed on primary care veterinarians. The salaries hospitals are offering to associates are simply not enough, and that needs to change. As the costs of living and education

increase, the salaries hospitals are willing to pay veterinarians need to increase as well. Research says veterinarian salaries are growing, but they are not increasing at a fast-enough pace. Annual revenue in the pet industry is in the billions of dollars and quickly expanding, but associate salaries do not appear to reflect this growth. Until they do, the help wanted

signs will remain hung, collecting dust.

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1. Larkin M. Veterinarian shortage or salaries not keeping up? *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2019;255:1331-1332.

Instructions for Writing a Letter to the Editor

Readers are invited to submit letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 500 words and 6 references. Letters to the Editor must be original and cannot have been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. Not all letters are published; all letters accepted for publication are subject to editing. Those pertaining to anything published in the *JAVMA* should be received within 1 month of the date of publication. Submission via email (JournalLetters@avma.org) or fax (847-925-9329) is encouraged; authors should give their full contact information, including address, daytime telephone number, fax number, and email address.

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