

Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association



ArVMA's mission is to improve animal and human health, and the environment, by protecting and advancing the veterinary medical profession.

DINNER WITH LEGISLATORS

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Your legislative committee is working hard to establish and maintain strong relationships with legislators. We are finessing conversations and advocating for the veterinarians of Arkansas.

This committee is spending a lot of time educating on various topics, including the VCPR. Please consider conversations with your local leaders regarding this topic.

BY THE NUMBERS

SOUTHWEST VET SYMPOSIUM

There were close to 5000 attendees at southwest vet symposium with 1729 being veterinarians and 1152 being technicians and 169 assistants.

Arkansas participated in a partner meeting to discuss improving SWVS. Ideas included adding various perks and benefits to elevate your experience at an added cost.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ARVMA WINTER MEETING

We had SUCH a great meeting last year, and anticipate an even better turn out this year. Please plan to attend the ArVMA Winter Meeting in

Hot Springs, AR

February 7-9, 2025

Bring your staff, your spouse, and your friends!

Colorado Ballot Proposition 129

ArVMA is endorsing a statement from AVMA in opposition to the Veterinary midlevel practitioner (MLP) / Veterinary Professional Associate (VPA). Colorado Ballot Proposition 129 intends to create a VPA and will be on the general ballot in Colorado this November,

Endorsed publicly as of 10/07/24:

- American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP)
- American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP)
- American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP)
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV)
- American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS)
- American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC)
- Colorado Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians (CACVT)
- Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)
- Compassion Animal Hospital (Woodland, Colorado)
- The Gazette (news outlet)
- Independent Veterinary Practitioners Association (IVPA)
- Dr. Karen McCormick (Colorado House Representative)
- Littleton Equine Center (Dr. Will French's Clinic)
- Pike's Peak Veterinary Clinic (Dr. Melanie Marsden's Clinic)
- Relief Veterinary Medical Association (RVMA)
- Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA)
- Veterinary Management Groups (VMG)

LEGISLATIVE LOOK-UP:

<https://districtfinder.youraedi.com/>

UPDATE FROM LYON COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

The Lyon College School of Veterinary Medicine (LCSVM) continues to move forward with the creation of the first fully accredited veterinary school in Arkansas. The submission of the LCSVM Council on Education Self Study Document led to a successful COE Consultative Site visit in November 2023. The COE report contained valuable comments and no surprises. We submitted a response to the COE report by its June 1, 2024, deadline and then in August 2024 we submitted a formal request for a COE Comprehensive Site Visit. The city of Cabot graciously offered LCSVM a home, so the LCSVM will be located in Cabot. Currently being prepared for construction with dirt already being moved, the site is conveniently located just off exit 21 of Hwy 67/167 (future I-67). The architects have completed first drafts of floor plans, elevations, and the site. Cabot Animal Support Services is planning a new comprehensive facility, which will be co-located on the same site, creating unlimited possibilities for collaboration, mutual benefit, and highly valuable learning opportunities for students. Dr. Ashley Mounts has been traveling across Arkansas to identify clinics, hospitals, and other entities that are interested in becoming clinical affiliate sites and educational partners for LCSVM veterinary students. Inclusion of Arkansas veterinarians in educating future veterinarians and contributing ideas to their veterinary school will undoubtedly shape the future of veterinary education and the veterinary profession in Arkansas. Building a new veterinary school from scratch is a monumental undertaking, but the LCSVM team is up for the challenge as it marches through the necessary steps.

UPDATE FROM ASU CVM

ASU continues to make progress in design of the College of Veterinary Medicine building and expansion of our CVM leadership team. The curriculum has been approved by ADHE, and a consultative visit by AVMA Council on Education site team was performed in July and the program was evaluated across 11 standards. Contingent upon the final accreditation process, Arkansas State University CVM plans to admit its first class in Fall 2026. The facility's office spaces will be planned and remodeled in the Ellis House of Nettleton in Jonesboro. So far 166 practices across the nation, and 57 in Arkansas have signed on as partner hospitals. The next steps include recruiting additional members of the leadership team, beginning construction on the CVM building, and schedule a comprehensive accreditation site visit, and recruit faculty and students.

Check the website for updates <https://www.astate.edu/college/veterinary-medicine/>

For information regarding the College of Veterinary Medicine, please contact Heidi Banse: hbanse@astate.edu.



TITLE PROTECTION FOR VET TECHS

Title protection for 'Veterinary Technician' is needed, desired, but absent and misunderstood in most states. Veterinarians and veterinary clinic managers often call unlicensed employees technicians. Arkansas Veterinarians can show our support of licensed technicians by reserving that title for them.

REVISED BYLAWS REVIEW: COMMENT PERIOD CLOSED

The comment period closed on September 5th, 2024 for the newly revised ArVMA Bylaws. This marks 7 months past the time when the ArVMA board announced the proposed changes, distributed a document containing the proposed bylaws changes at our in-person meeting as well as making this document available online. After monthly newsletters with a reminder to review and offer comment, we have officially received zero comments on the revisions. The bylaws committee will meet to review the document one final time, and will prepare the document for review and vote at the annual ArVMA Winter Meeting held in Hot Springs on February 7-9, 2025.