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APPENDIX VII
Shift in Gender in Veterinary Students

The trend of increasing women graduating from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University began in the 1960s; genders reached equivalent numbers in 1992. In the later 1990s the number of male admissions to veterinary medicine declined slowly, even though male applications rose, and then declined to small numbers. (See graphs that follow.)

In the 2002 graduating veterinary class at Iowa State University, only two listed employment as Large Animal (neither working in Iowa). Twelve listed General Practice/Predominantly Large Animal (with four in Iowa and eight out of state) and four listed General Practice/50:50 (one in Iowa).

By 2000, women were assuming major administrative responsibilities in academia. Shirley Johnston was the first dean of a veterinary school in the United States—at Western University of Health Sciences, which admitted its first class in 2002. Soon to follow were Sheila Allen, University of Georgia, and Joan Hendricks at the University of Pennsylvania. Lisa Nolan, an expert in E. coli infections, was dean of the veterinary schools at Iowa State and, seven years later, the University of Georgia.
Decline in male students graduating from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University from 1970 to 2006. Bars represent percentage of male graduates.
Number of male applicants (black) and male admissions (gray) in Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, 1994–2002. Figure in parentheses is the total number of male and female applicants.