1. I choose to use the term “animal” when describing nonhuman animals for the sake of simplicity in using this commonly understood term; however, I recognize the complex issues that arise in using this language. For instance, humans are animals, too; thus, contrasting “human” and “animal” as separate and distinct reifies their difference and the consequent superior status of humans. Further, the word “animal” homogenizes a vast array of species into one category, which is also problematic when trying to understand what the term means.

2. Veterinary medicine does not typically hyphenate “large animal” and “small animal” notations, so neither do I throughout this book. Here, however, is an example of how the lack of a hyphen can potentially lead to confusion for the reader. In this sentence I refer to the teaching hospital dedicated to animals in the large animal track in veterinary training. I am not describing the teaching hospital as a particularly large building.

3. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association defines career tracking as the requirement of all students to complete core courses in the biomedical sciences for one or two years, with the last two or three years designated as “career tracks” with different core courses for each track (Lavictoire, 2003).

4. The name “food animal” is common terminology within the veterinary community, and the American Veterinary Medical Association presents its data using this term.

5. The categories represented by the tracking system relate to a much broader system of animal and agricultural governance that goes beyond and influences veterinary education. The designations “companion animal” and “food animal” influence animal protection legislation, meat and dairy production, and slaughterhouse regulations. For example, the slaughter of a cow is not deemed animal abuse, but the same act on a dog would be.

6. Veterinary medicine has undergone dramatic feminization in the sense of its sex composition but not necessarily in its gendered ideology (Irvine & Vermilya, 2010). In 2010, women constituted 52% of practicing veterinarians (AVMA, 2010). In 2020, women were nearly 64% of veterinarians (AVMA, 2020).

7. Market research statistics from the American Veterinary Medical Association list the 2020 data as the most recent available at this time.
8. There was an alarming shortage in other health professions, such as medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, and public health.
9. This has occurred internationally, too. In the Netherlands, the percentage of female graduates from schools of veterinary medicine grew from 35% in 1988 to 60% in 1999. In Austria, 88% of the 1998 entering class were female (Rinesch, 1998).