



University of Nevada, Reno

A Land-Grant University • Est. 1874

University of Nevada, Reno
College of Veterinary Medicine

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

Executive Vice President and Provost Jeff Thompson



Our State Needs a Veterinary School

We conducted a needs analysis. Our findings:

- Nevada has no in-state Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program; students pursuing that degree leave the state.
- Persistent shortages in rural, agricultural, and food-animal veterinary services
- Veterinarians play a critical role in public health, food safety, and biosecurity
- Out-of-state training pipelines do not meet long-term workforce demand
- A vet school supports animal welfare, public health, emergency response, and long-term workforce stability across the state





Additional needs: Southern Nevada

- “The Animal Foundation in Las Vegas said the problem is a supply and demand issue. There are more jobs available than people to fill them.” –KTVN Las Vegas
- The USDA’s Veterinary Services Shortage map lists multiple Nevada counties—such as Lincoln County—as designated shortage areas for rural food-animal practice.
- “In Southern Nevada, fewer available veterinarians mean longer appointment wait times, higher treatment costs, and more pet surrenders as owners cannot access or afford care.”
–*Las Vegas Sun*



There are 32 schools or colleges of veterinary medicine in the U.S. that are accredited or accreditation pending – all are members of the AAVMC (American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges).

Closest accredited veterinary (DVM) schools to the University of Nevada, Reno:

- University of California, Davis – School of Veterinary Medicine
- Oregon State University – Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine
- Washington State University – College of Veterinary Medicine
- Midwestern University – College of Veterinary Medicine
- Colorado State University – College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

- Over a quarter of vet school applicants for the class of 2026 identified as first-generation college students.
- Job growth for the veterinary industry is expected to grow 19% for the next 10 years



FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Demonstrated demand and workforce need
- Stakeholder and clinical partner consultation
- Veterinary education models
 - hospital-based,
 - community-based
- Cost structure
 - Competitive tuition (approximately \$26,000)
 - State investment (capital and operational support)
- Donor enthusiasm and philanthropic interest





University of Nevada, Reno

- Established strengths in agriculture, animal science, biomedical research, and veterinary science
- Land: UNR owns the land needed to develop Veterinary School
 - UNR's statewide Cooperative Extension programs spans ranching and farming and livestock care, to wildlife and rangelands protection, to 4-H Youth
 - Institution's deep engagement with rural communities
 - UNR has a unique capacity to integrate veterinary education with public health education and population health.





Partnerships

Conversations with the NV Department of Agriculture

Research

Benchmarking visit to Texas Tech's School of Veterinary Medicine, informational interviews with industry professionals

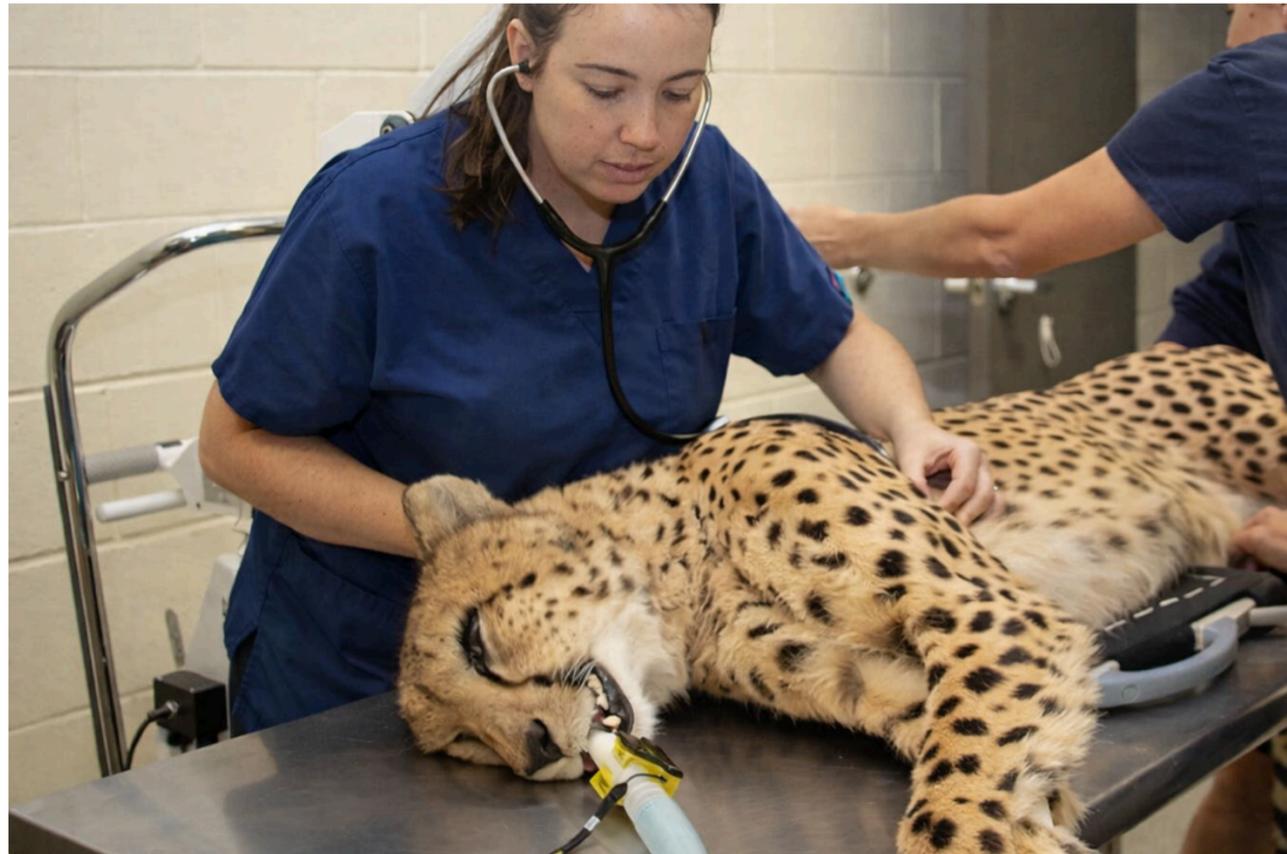
Collaboration

Discussions with practicing veterinarians and industry stakeholders

Innovation

Internal coordination across academic, research, and administrative units





Veterinary Education Models Under Our Review

- Community-based, distributed clinical training model
- Hybrid model combining campus-based instruction with statewide clinical partners
- Traditional hospital-based model
 - phased implementation to manage cost, accreditation, and risk



Planning Status, Conceptual Timeline

(Our timeline remains flexible as planning progresses)



Cost and Funding Considerations

- Capital needs include teaching facilities and equipment
- Operating costs include faculty, staff, partnerships, student support

Funding proposal includes a mix of state investment, philanthropy, tuition, and research support

- Detailed cost estimates are in development and not yet finalized

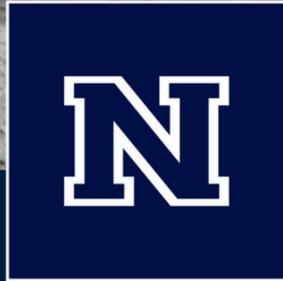


Next Steps



- Continue feasibility analysis, model refinement
- Advance accreditation planning discussions
- Engage NSHE leadership and Board for continual guidance
- Develop facility concepts and flesh out funding strategy





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