**Contacting Your Legislators**

If you are committed to increasing access to veterinary care for all and decreasing animal suffering, please contact your state legislator and tell them we need solutions to this crisis now.

*Advocacy tip*: For an even greater impact, **share your story**!

* Are you unable to access veterinary care due to a lack of transportation or a lack of nearby clinics?
* Have you lost a pet to a preventable illness because you could not afford wellness checks?
* Have you had to make the gut-wrenching decision to euthanize a pet because you could not access emergency care?

Your legislators need to know that their constituents and their pets are suffering due to a lack of access to veterinary care.

You can find the contact information for your legislators [here](https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator), then simply email them with your story and reasons for supporting increasing access to veterinary care or use one of our templates below.

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Dear Rep./Sen. [*legislator last name*],

I am your constituent and I am concerned about the lack of access to veterinary care in Colorado. A critical shortage of veterinary professionals has left many parts of our state without veterinary care. This lack of access contributes to animal suffering, human hardship, and destabilizes our food supply.

I urge you to take immediate action to rectify the problem, with a special focus on increasing the workforce by creating the veterinary PA position, increasing the use of veterinary technician specialists, and eliminating outdated legal barriers to the use of veterinary telehealth.

Sincerely,

[*Your name and address/district*]

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Dear Rep./Sen. *[legislator last name*]

As a pet owner, I demand action on the access to veterinary care crisis developing in our state. Veterinary care is already difficult enough to access and afford, due to long wait times for appointments and extremely high costs. The problem will only grow without your prompt action.

Our pets deserve access to medical care. I urge you to support commonsense solutions to this crisis such as increasing the use of veterinary telehealth and increasing the veterinary workforce by creating the veterinary professional associate (VPA) position through statute.

Sincerely,

[*Your name and address/district*]

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Dear Rep./Sen. [*legislator last name*]

According to a recent study by Mars, 75 million pets will be without veterinary care by 2030 due to a significant shortage of veterinary professionals to care for them. We must take action now to prevent this from happening! Please support solutions to the access to veterinary care crisis, including creation of the veterinary professional associate (VPA) position, increasing the use of veterinary technician specialists, and eliminating barriers to veterinary telehealth.

Sincerely,

[*Your name and address/district*]

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Dear Rep./Sen. [*legislator last name*],

The veterinary workforce shortage and access to veterinary care crises are reaching a critical point. As your constituent, I implore you to support and promote commonsense solutions to these challenges. One commonsense solution is amending the veterinary practice act by creating the veterinary professional associate (VPA) position, expanding the work of veterinary technician specialists, and opening the use of veterinary telehealth. Our animals’ lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

[*Your name and address/district*]

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Dear Rep./Sen. [*legislator last name*],

 I am very concerned about the significant and broadening lack of access to veterinary care for Colorado’s animals. We need more veterinary professionals to enter and remain in the field. One way to do this is by amending the veterinary practice act to create a veterinary professional associate (VPA) position. Similar to a PA in human medicine, a VPA is a master’s level professional to whom a licensed veterinarian may delegate certain veterinary medical tasks. This model has worked for many years in human medicine. If it is good enough for us, it should be good enough for our pets.

 Please support this and other commonsense amendments to the veterinary practice act.

Sincerely,

[*Your name and address/district*]