

# A COMMUNITY IN CRISIS

*Vet Clinics Facing Staffing Shortages, Increased Demand for Care  
Pet Guardians Facing Long Waits, Increased Pricing, Lack of Resources*

## BIG PICTURE >

## UNDERSTANDING THE REALITY

***The chronic nationwide veterinary labor shortage continues to grow.***

Hospitals, clinics, and vet offices around the U.S. have been turning animals away because they are short-staffed. This crisis has hit all levels of the system, from general practice to specialists and animal emergency rooms, to non-profit spay/neuter clinics.

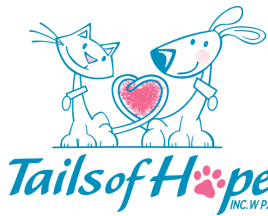
- **By 2030, the U.S. will need nearly 41,000 additional veterinarians and nearly 133,000 credentialed Vet Techs.\***
- It would take more than 30-years of graduates to meet the 10-year need for credentialed veterinary technicians.\*
- Over **75 million** pets in the U.S. may not have access to veterinary care by 2030.\*
- The physical, mental, and emotional toll-including fatigue and burnout-of the veterinary field means not many skilled persons survive.
- In addition, the relatively low pay as well as lack of recognition remain ongoing concerns of the veterinary profession.
- Turnover rates are twice that of comparable industries but with not enough certified replacements available.

***The veterinary profession is unique in the world and the difference it makes cannot be duplicated.***

\*According to a recent Mars Veterinary Health Report.

## LOCAL IMPACT >

## TAILS OF HOPE TEMPORARILY SHUTTING ITS DOORS DUE TO STAFFING SHORTAGE



**Effective August 12, 2022**, Tails of Hope (TOH), Hermitage, PA, will be unable to provide its low-to-no-cost lifesaving services due to a medical staff shortage-specifically a lack of certified vet techs. TOH is not the only vet clinic in our area to temporarily or permanently close or otherwise be effected by staffing challenges.

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

***Without the only non-profit, low-to-no-cost spay/neuter clinic in Mercer County, there will be a significant negative impact to our community and surrounding areas.***

- Both pet guardians and compassionate caretakers of homeless animals are left feeling helpless because our local vet clinics are either **no longer accepting patients** or have **long waits** for appointments; full-cost pricing is **not affordable** by all-especially for homeless animals; and **many shelters/rescues are full** & not accepting any more animals.
- This further expands the **generations** of unwanted litters of pets or homeless animals, abandonment and suffering of animals, the need for veterinary care in our already maxed-out area, and the financial burden to local shelters/rescues today and for years to come.

## CALL TO ACTION >

## WE MUST WORK TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO SOLVE THIS CRISIS



***Tails of Hope calls on Community Leaders, Local Municipalities, and Local Veterinary Practices of Western PA and Eastern OH to come together and solve the veterinary professional shortage for the community as a whole - and not just for today, but for the long-term. Strategic Planning includes:***

- Effectively applying current veterinary workforce across our community
- Improving current veterinary workforce retention in our community
- Preparing to procure and retain future veterinary workforce in our community
- Improving pro-active (vs re-active) approach to pet overpopulation control in our community

**The problem is not going to fix itself.** We cannot repair the nationwide crisis, but we can show our community we care enough to work together and make a difference locally.

**For more information or to be part of the solution, visit [TailsOfHopeWPA.org](https://TailsOfHopeWPA.org)**