The first medicines are developed to treat bacterial diseases in animals. Many early products helped farmers produce better animals and helped to meet growing demand for meat products due to a growing and more prosperous American population.

1980 Safer and more effective medicines that kill internal parasites in livestock and pets are developed. Better control of parasites such as roundworms and tapeworms improve the lives of pets. The availability of medicines that control a wide range of livestock parasites contribute to animal welfare.

1990 Major developments are made in the control of external parasites, such as fleas and ticks in dogs and cats. These medical advances help reduce human exposure to ticks that spread Lyme disease.

1990 A new generation of safer medicine is developed for pain management for dogs and horses suffering from arthritis, improving the quality of life in older animals.

2000 Antidepressants to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder and separation anxiety in dogs are developed to help improve balance and temperament in both pets and their owners.

2005 Animal health companies work with USDA to develop an avian flu vaccine in response to the potential threat of a human and bird flu pandemic. The U.S. government is provided with large supplies of the vaccine in case of a potential outbreak.

2006 Animal health scientists create a West Nile virus vaccine for horses in response to the outbreak in the U.S. This innovation has improved the health and welfare of horses by protecting them from human spread of the virus.

2007 The first cancer vaccine and cancer treatment drug are approved for dogs. This is the first time that the U.S. government has approved a cancer vaccine for animals or humans. Research and development for animal medicines could result in improved cancer treatments for all.

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2009 U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers indicate that certain foods, such as garlic and olive oil, may help reduce the severity of symptoms in various conditions, including cancer. This finding is expected to further support the growing interest in using natural remedies to treat health issues.
Issues surrounding animals and public health have received increased attention over the last few years, highlighting the nexus between human health and animal health.

**Animal health is essential to human health.**

Animal diseases have effectively controlled diseases such as rabies, and continue to help us protect animals against dangerous outbreaks of diseases such as avian flu, foot-and-mouth disease and West Nile virus. Scientists have determined that approximately 60 percent of the human diseases we see today are derived from the same types of organisms that make us sick. They can move from humans to animals and vice versa.

**By keeping animals healthy, we can prevent disease transmission and live in close proximity to animals.**

By improving the health of farm animals, we can help keep animals healthy and prevent disease transmission to humans, improving the way we live. The link between human and animal health creates unprecedented challenges in the way we diagnose, treat and prevent diseases. We share the same human/animal connection and its impact on the public and increase recognition of the importance of animal health.

**Veterinarians play a major role in environmental protection, food safety and public health.**

Veterinarians are the only veterinary profession working to prevent and treat both people and animals. However, many people are unaware of the health issues they share with farm animals and pets. Yet, many of these health issues are interconnected.

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