Congress passes the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act in 1913 to protect farmers from "snake oil" sales, ushering in the modern era of government-approved animal medicines. Hog cholera serum is among the first government-approved animal health products. Hog cholera, like many other early animal diseases, has now been officially eradicated from the United States.

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.

1989 New preventative heartworm medicines allow dogs to be treated monthly, replacing the need for daily use of medicines to control this deadly disease in pets.

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.*

1995 Congress passes the Animal Welfare Act to protect the physical and psychological well-being of animals used for research, teaching, and testing .

1999 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 the spread of the virus.

2000 Antidepressants to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder and separation anxiety in dogs are developed to help improve pet behavior and strengthen the bond between people and their pets.

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.

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 therapeutic vaccine for cancer in animals or humans. Research and development for animal medicines could result in improved cancer treatment for all.

2008 The first in a class of pre-harvest vaccines is created to reduce the amount of E. coli O157:H7 in cattle that will ultimately decrease human exposure to this deadly foodborne pathogen.

2009 The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the animal health industry cooperatively created an animal vaccine for H1N1 that will give veterinarians a tool to help control the disease in pigs if needed.

* First non-steroidal anti-inflammatory