

2024

Environmental Sustainability

UPDATE



A message from *our president*

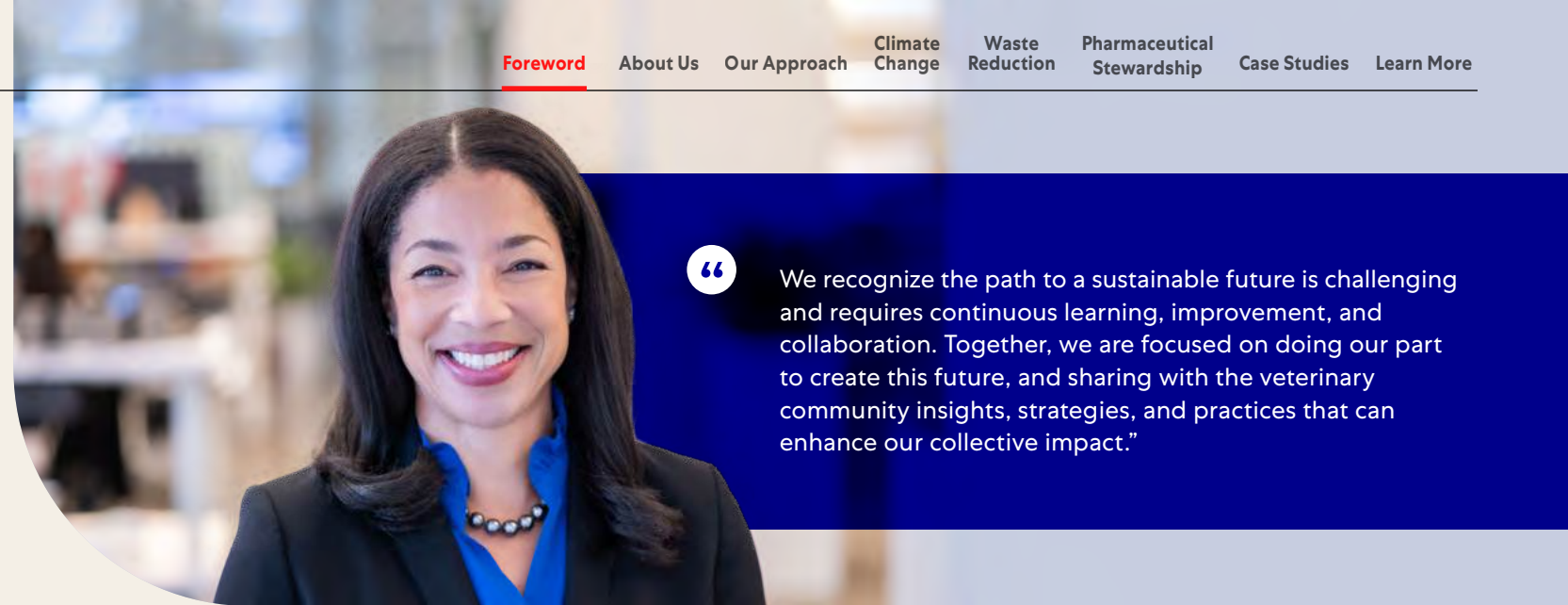
Mars Veterinary Health touches the lives of millions of pets, and as a result, we recognize our responsibility to deliver veterinary care more sustainably. We also believe in a [One Health approach](#): the concept that humans, animals, and our planet are inextricably linked. As part of the veterinary profession, we play a vital role in protecting the health of all three. With that role and our purpose—A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS—in mind, I invite you to explore our first Mars Veterinary Health Environmental Sustainability Update.

Through action to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste, and promote pharmaceutical stewardship across our organization and through global industry collaboration, our inaugural report details how we are contributing to a more sustainable future for pets and the people who love them.

Leveraging data to reduce our impacts

We take a data-driven approach to reducing emissions and waste across our organization, upstream through our supply chain, and downstream to pet owners.

In 2021, we conducted a comprehensive assessment of our greenhouse gas emissions to better understand the extent of our footprint, which led to a comprehensive plan to reduce it. For example, we're now sourcing 100% renewable electricity for our 2,300+ U.S. and U.K. veterinary clinics. In 2023, we conducted waste assessments at select Mars Veterinary Health clinics to identify common strategies and clinic-specific opportunities that are informing several of our waste and recycling efforts today.



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We recognize the path to a sustainable future is challenging and requires continuous learning, improvement, and collaboration. Together, we are focused on doing our part to create this future, and sharing with the veterinary community insights, strategies, and practices that can enhance our collective impact.”

Promoting global, industry-wide collaboration

A cornerstone of our sustainability approach is advancing profession-wide collaboration on collective solutions that will build a more sustainable future for veterinary medicine. For example, we are a founding sponsor of [Veterinary Sustainability Alliance](#), the first U.S.-focused nonprofit dedicated to preserving and protecting animal and human health through sustainability.

While this report is intended to share more about our environmental sustainability approach and progress, we also welcome you to learn more about how we are supporting the Mars [vision](#) for a healthy planet and [human rights](#) all over the world by driving positive change on behalf of [pets](#) and the [people](#) who love them.

Nefertiti Greene

PRESIDENT
Mars Veterinary Health

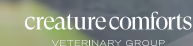
About

Mars Veterinary Health

As part of a family-owned business with 90 years of experience and heritage caring for pets, Mars Veterinary Health is dedicated to positively impacting people, pets, and the planet.

Guided by our Purpose—A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS—nearly 70,000 Mars Veterinary Health Associates working across thousands of veterinary clinics worldwide are united in their passion for pets and dedication to providing compassionate, high-quality care for millions of pets each year.

Learn more at marsveterinary.com



Our approach

Our Purpose—A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS—also means a more sustainable world for people and the planet. In support of our Purpose, we are on a mission to make veterinary care more sustainable.



Climate change

Climate change poses an [urgent threat](#) to the wellbeing of people and animals around the world. Veterinary medicine brings many positive benefits to society, but like every industry, there are environmental impacts associated with veterinary operations that every pet healthcare business has a responsibility to reduce, including ours.

We are working to decrease our footprint through a science-based approach that includes measuring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sourcing renewable electricity, and improving energy efficiency.



Waste reduction

With thousands of veterinary clinics worldwide, we recognize treating pets creates waste—from the sterile, single-use medical equipment and supplies used in exams and surgeries, to the packaging from those supplies. We aim to employ circular approaches [and follow the waste hierarchy](#) to reduce clinic waste through the reduction in the materials and packaging we use, reusing products when safe to do so, and increasing recycling through new services and better training and signage in our clinics.



Pharmaceutical stewardship

Antimicrobials used to treat infections [are becoming less effective](#), which is of critical importance for the sick people and pets that need them. Recognizing the global urgency of this issue, and as part of the essential role of veterinary practitioners in One Health, the appropriate use of antimicrobials like antibiotics is critical to providing high-quality veterinary care and for the long-term health of people, pets, and the planet. As a leading provider of pet healthcare globally, we recognize our duty to use pharmaceuticals responsibly to reduce the threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Contributing to the Mars Net Zero Roadmap



Mars Veterinary Health is acting across our business to contribute to Mars, Incorporated's action plan for **achieving NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2050**—including a target to **cut emissions in half by 2030** across its full value chain—as outlined in the [Net Zero Roadmap](#). We're proud that Mars, Incorporated has reduced total absolute greenhouse gas emissions by 16% across the value chain against a baseline of 2015.

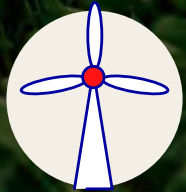


We aim to source **100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY** across the U.S. and Europe by the end of 2025.

To that end, we are focused on continuously improving through assessment and analysis of antibiotic prescribing within our clinics to aid veterinarians as they work to prescribe the right antibiotic, at the right time, for the right duration—and only when needed. Our approach is intended to help ensure antibiotics continue to be effective to treat sick pets for years to come while also preventing discarded pharmaceuticals from entering the environment where they can negatively impact water quality, soil health, and local ecosystems. Read more about the steps we're taking in [our AMR position](#).

Our progress so far

We are taking action to protect the future of our planet and the people and pets depending on it. Here's what we've achieved to date:



Sourced

100%

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY
for 2,300+ veterinary clinics
across the U.S. and U.K.

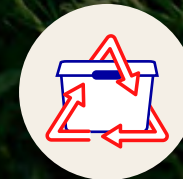


Helped address the travel impacts
of our in-person meetings in 2024
by supporting the nonprofit **One
Tree Planted** to plant nearly

25,000

TREES

in support of reforestation
and biodiversity



Partnered with **one of our
largest suppliers** to scale
its **reusable shipping tote
container program** to nearly
1,000 U.S. CLINICS
and

**80 TONS
OF WASTE**

avoided in 2024 as a result



Piloted industry-leading
anesthetic gas capture
technology at select
clinics filling

135

CANNISTERS

with waste anesthetic gas,
reducing greenhouse gas
emissions



Collected

**MORE THAN
18,000**

**PET FOOD PACKS
FOR RECYCLING**

across the U.S. and U.K.
between 2023-2024
through flexible plastic
recycling initiatives



Published

**SIX
PIONEERING,
PEER-REVIEWED
RESEARCH PAPERS**

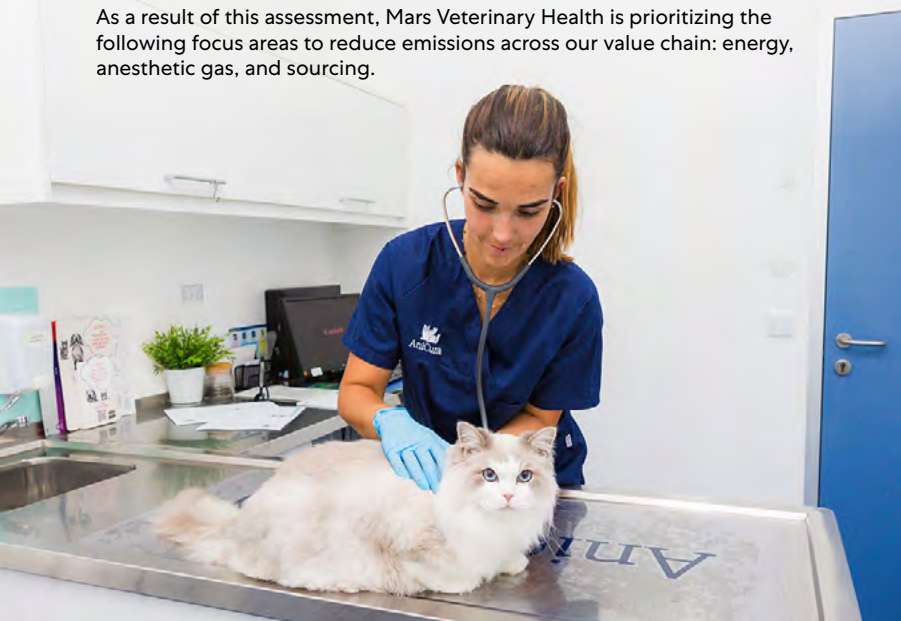
on **responsible pharmaceutical
stewardship approaches** and
findings ultimately reaching
millions of people



Understanding our footprint & driving climate action

In 2021, we conducted a comprehensive assessment of our greenhouse gas emissions to better understand the full extent of our footprint. It revealed most of our emissions stem from purchased goods and services, including the medical supplies and medicines needed to care for pet patients. Other top sources of emissions include energy, anesthetic gas, waste, and travel and commuting.

As a result of this assessment, Mars Veterinary Health is prioritizing the following focus areas to reduce emissions across our value chain: energy, anesthetic gas, and sourcing.



Renewable energy & energy-efficient lighting

To reduce our carbon footprint, we are sourcing 100% renewable electricity for more than 2,300 of our clinics in the U.S. and the U.K. Through a power-purchase agreement with Apex Clean Energy that enabled the construction of a wind farm in Ford Ridge, IL, in the U.S., the turbines at Ford Ridge generate enough power to supply the more than 2,000 U.S. clinics with clean electricity. We also completed a large-scale installation of energy-efficient LED lighting in more than 450 of our veterinary clinics through 2024, ultimately reducing energy consumption for each.



Lowering anesthetic gas emissions

We identified opportunities to cut emissions from the anesthetic gas that's used during surgical procedures and dental cleanings, given it's a [potent greenhouse gas](#) in both human and pet healthcare. At Linnaeus, for instance, we've implemented more efficient anesthesia practices like lower-flow techniques and created a "[We Go for Lower Flow](#)" campaign that includes videos and posters and is open-source for anyone to access. In 2024, we also [launched an industry-first anesthetic gas capture](#) pilot in select Linnaeus clinics to further curb emissions, with the intention of exploring the potential application of this technology across other parts of our business in the years to come.



Sustainable sourcing

Given most of our emissions come from our supply chain, we are embedding sustainability criteria into our procurement processes. This includes partnering with suppliers to promote products with lower carbon footprints. To support this initiative, we have enrolled seven of our largest suppliers in our [Supplier Leadership on Climate Transition](#) (Supplier LoCT) program to date, which helps them measure their emissions, set science-based targets, and work toward meaningful reductions.



As a leading global provider of high-quality veterinary medicine, we have a unique opportunity to take climate action at scale and lead the way toward more sustainable practices. By pioneering advancements and sharing best practices across our network of clinics in collaboration with our suppliers and industry partners, we are committed to meaningfully contributing to a better future for our planet—and the pets and people depending on it."

Molly McAllister, DVM, MPH

Chief Medical Officer
Mars Veterinary Health





Waste reduction & recycling progress

Reducing waste in our veterinary clinics requires a coordinated effort, both upstream with our suppliers to change how products are composed and packaged, and downstream with waste vendors, municipalities, and our thousands of Associates around the globe to improve and increase reuse and recycling. To kickstart our efforts starting in 2023, we conducted waste assessments at select clinics to identify common strategies and clinic-specific opportunities.

This baseline information is now informing the first set of Mars Veterinary Health waste reduction pilots and the development of a playbook that will be scaled across our clinics over five years starting in 2025.



Waste avoidance and reusability

We strive to follow the well-established waste hierarchy and prevent the creation of waste in the first place by identifying opportunities for avoidance and reusability. One such initiative is our reusable shipping tote delivery program, launched in collaboration with our primary distributor in the U.S., [MWI Animal Health](#). This supply shipment program combines order consolidation with reusable, stackable totes in place of cardboard and plastic packaging, reducing waste at veterinary clinics and ensuring product integrity. We continue to scale this program throughout our U.S. clinics and avoided 80 tons of waste in 2024 alone.

80

tons of waste avoided in 2024 through the reusable shipping tote delivery program



Recycling and circularity

When items cannot be reused – such as pet food packaging, syringes, and gloves – our focus turns to recycling and promoting circularity. Through two recycling programs, one in the U.S. and one in the U.K., we have successfully [collected 18,000 pet food packs](#) for recycling through our clinics since 2023. Additionally, through a partnership with [Project Animal Aid](#), BluePearl donates medical equipment and supplies to nonprofit organizations around the globe to offer a more sustainable solution for unneeded supplies. In total, 3,000 pounds of waste have been diverted from landfills since the program inception in 2023.

18,000

pet food packs collected for recycling through our clinics





Responsible pharmaceutical stewardship

As a leading provider of veterinary care globally, we feel a responsibility to harness our knowledge, research, and data-driven insights to contribute to veterinary science and responsible pharmaceutical use approaches. We work to share these learnings with the entire veterinary profession to help continue to advance sustainable care practices, given we recognize collective action will lead to greater impact.

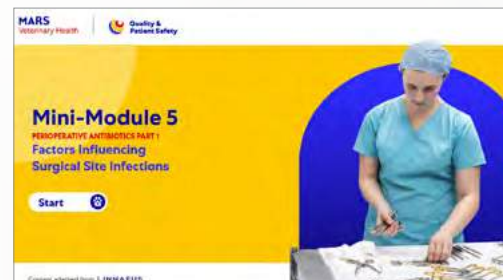
A critical focus is combating AMR, a public health crisis that not only decreases the efficacy of antimicrobials in treating sick people and pets but also negatively impacts the environment, given pharmaceuticals can enter waterways and ecosystems when they are excreted or improperly discarded, contributing to environmental contamination, and ultimately, threatening biodiversity and water quality.

Groundbreaking research

In 2024, we published a [groundbreaking study](#) evaluating antimicrobial purchasing practices across more than 2,000 of our veterinary clinics, producing valuable data to help equip veterinarians to ensure antimicrobials are only prescribed when necessary. We also led the broadest study of its kind to date on [the influence of co-morbidities on antimicrobial usage during dental procedures](#), which included more than 800,000 general anesthesia dental cases. The study builds on our [prior research](#) from Mars Veterinary Health, Banfield, the University of Guelph, and UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and underscores the need for evidence-based guidelines for responsible antimicrobial use in the area of veterinary dentistry, among other findings.

Educational courses

We are making progress in improving antibiotic stewardship across our clinics, with various initiatives focused on responsible antibiotic use and enhancing infection control education. This includes a 2024 initiative in Singapore, where our Mount Pleasant Associates across several clinics completed an AMR educational course and a perioperative antibiotic use survey to review current prescribing practices.



Collaborations & One Health approach

As part of our commitment to combating AMR, Mars Veterinary Health is a founding partner of the National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Education ([NIAMRRE](#)). This organization fosters cross-sector collaboration and supports a One Health approach to fighting AMR, emphasizing the interconnected health of people, animals, and the environment. Additionally, Mars Veterinary Health supported the first Companion Animal Antimicrobial Stewards meeting and [resulting white paper](#).

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Mars Veterinary Health is leveraging its broad geographic presence, data, and science to facilitate appropriate antibiotic use globally, with the ultimate One Health goal of making veterinary care more sustainable for human health, animal health, and environmental health.”



Ian Battersby

BVSc DSAM DipECVIM-CA FRCVS,
RCVS, and European Specialist in
Internal Medicine, Global Responsible
Pharmaceutical Stewardship Lead,
Mars Veterinary Health



Championing antimicrobial stewardship in veterinary medicine

Since 2016, and as part of its medical quality management program [QualiCura](#), AniCura has invited veterinarians in AniCura clinics to complete an annual point prevalence survey on antibiotic use in dogs. This survey investigates the specific reasons for treatment with antibiotics, choice of antibiotics, durations of treatment, use of diagnostic tools, and bacteriology practices. In 2024, more than 280 clinics from 12 countries participated in the survey.

Armed with nine years of survey data, AniCura has been able to provide tailored guidance to veterinarians about wiser use of antibiotics to reduce selection for AMR and protect patient safety. This has included online education resources, working directly with individual clinicians to support change in antibiotic prescribing habits, and sharing best practices in infection prevention. In 2021, AniCura also introduced guidelines for common conditions for which antibiotics are often considered, such as dental disease and surgical procedures.

With 4.5 million veterinary consultations annually across the 17 countries it serves, AniCura is dedicated to responsible pharmaceutical prescribing by helping clinicians and pet owners use antibiotics more wisely, and as a result, combating AMR and supporting the efficacy and availability of antibiotics for the people and pets that truly need them now and in the future.



Providing guidance for the veterinary industry on sustainability

In 2024, Banfield released its annual [Veterinary Emerging Topics \(VET\)™ Report](#) in collaboration with the [North American Veterinary Community \(NAVC\)](#), which addressed the growing importance of sustainable practices in veterinary medicine.

The 2024 VET Report highlights Banfield's ongoing sustainability journey, including the steps the organization has taken to reduce its environmental footprint and foster more sustainable practices within its clinics. The report not only outlines Banfield's progress but also offers actionable insights and guidance for veterinary practices of all sizes.

Timed with the 2024 VET Report, Banfield launched a series of continuing education resources on [climate change](#) and [AMR](#). The resources were made available across various U.S. veterinary conferences and through digital channels and have been accessed 4,500+ times to date.

The [2025 VET Report](#) marks the 9th annual report and continues the conversation, taking a deep dive into antibiotic prescribing practices.

By providing these tools, Banfield is helping drive positive change in the veterinary field, encouraging a broader commitment to sustainability that benefits people, pets, and the planet.



Creating a sustainable and self-sufficient blood banking program

Across the U.S., veterinary emergency and specialty hospitals are grappling with a critical shortage of pet blood products. Compounding this issue is the significant waste within current blood bank systems, where products are often discarded due to infrastructure limitations and expiration.

The [BluePearl Blood Bank](#) was created to address these challenges by providing a self-sufficient banking program. Critical to the blood bank is a centralized inventory platform that monitors blood product expiration dates and sends alerts when stock is nearing its shelf life. This allows blood to be quickly redistributed between BluePearl hospitals to both meet needs and minimize waste. By focusing on serving local communities, the program reduces the number of miles blood products need to travel, cutting down on transportation-related environmental impacts.

BluePearl performs approximately 8,000 transfusions per year, sourcing a portion of the blood supply through donations. The BluePearl Blood Bank helps ensure a sufficient supply of blood products is available for pets that need it while also minimizing waste and reducing the footprint of blood product distribution.



LINNAEUS

Leveraging an external certification program to drive sustainability success

Linnaeus has a long-standing commitment to sustainability and innovative practices. From reducing waste to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, Linnaeus has worked to embed sustainability into its practices and goals. One initiative that has helped Linnaeus accelerate progress is the [Investors in the Environment \(iE\)](#) environmental accreditation program which is led by clinic Associates to reduce their environmental impacts. In 2020, Linnaeus became the first veterinary group in the U.K. to partner with iE to provide support, resources and ideas for sustainability initiatives at the clinic level.

Linnaeus has used the program to take a structured approach to understanding its environmental footprint. Veterinary practices participating in the program are required to meet high-level environmental audit criteria, set measurable resource reduction targets, and engage in an ongoing process of environmental improvement. This proactive approach encourages continuous innovation and accountability across operations.

As of the end of 2024, nearly 70% of Linnaeus practices are iE members. These clinics are implementing a range of cutting-edge sustainability initiatives, such as offering plastic pet food packaging recycling to clients, reducing waste by using reusable sterilization tins, and optimizing energy and anaesthesia practices to minimize greenhouse gas emissions.



Creating a Green Team to establish a green “model” hospital

In 2022, VCA Animal Care of Sonoma County staff members – including technicians, front desk staff, a hospital manager, a custodian, and a veterinarian – came together with a shared mission: to reduce the hospital's environmental footprint while maintaining the highest standard of care for pets.

The outcome was the establishment of a “Green Team” that has successfully implemented several sustainable initiatives.

For example, the Green Team helped the hospital transition to 100% [renewable electricity](#), reduced single-use items by adopting reusable sterilization tins in place of disposable blue wrap, and launched a pilot plastic recycling program to minimize waste sent to landfills. These efforts reflect the hospital's commitment to sustainability while ensuring pets continue to receive exceptional care.

For more details on their journey, tune in to the [VCA Voice podcast](#) or watch this [short video](#).



Charting a sustainable path *forward*

As Mars Veterinary Health strives to create a healthier planet for people and pets, we recognize the essential role of collaboration. Our journey toward a sustainable future is complex and challenging, but we are committed to learning, adapting, and progressing to achieve our Purpose: A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS.

As we look ahead, we will continue to test new approaches to improving the sustainability of veterinary medicine, scaling up pilots when they prove successful, tracking and reporting on our efforts, and aiming to increase the ambition of our targets as we show measurable achievements. We will continue to drive initiatives that avoid and reduce waste, increase the use of reusable medical products, and improve our recycling services and collections. We'll look for new and innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across our operations and in our supply chain. And we'll work with our many Associates to be stewards of antimicrobials and ensure we're using pharmaceuticals in ways that protect pets, people, and the planet.

We invite every member of the veterinary community to join us. By sharing insights and strategies, we can strengthen our collective impact and inspire sustainable practices throughout our profession.

To learn more about our programs, please visit

marsveterinary.com/veterinary-sustainability

