



# A Collaborative Approach to Spectrum of Care: Bridging Education, Regulation, and Practice

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# Overview

## Spectrum of care

- What is it
- Why is it important

## Spectrum of care in education

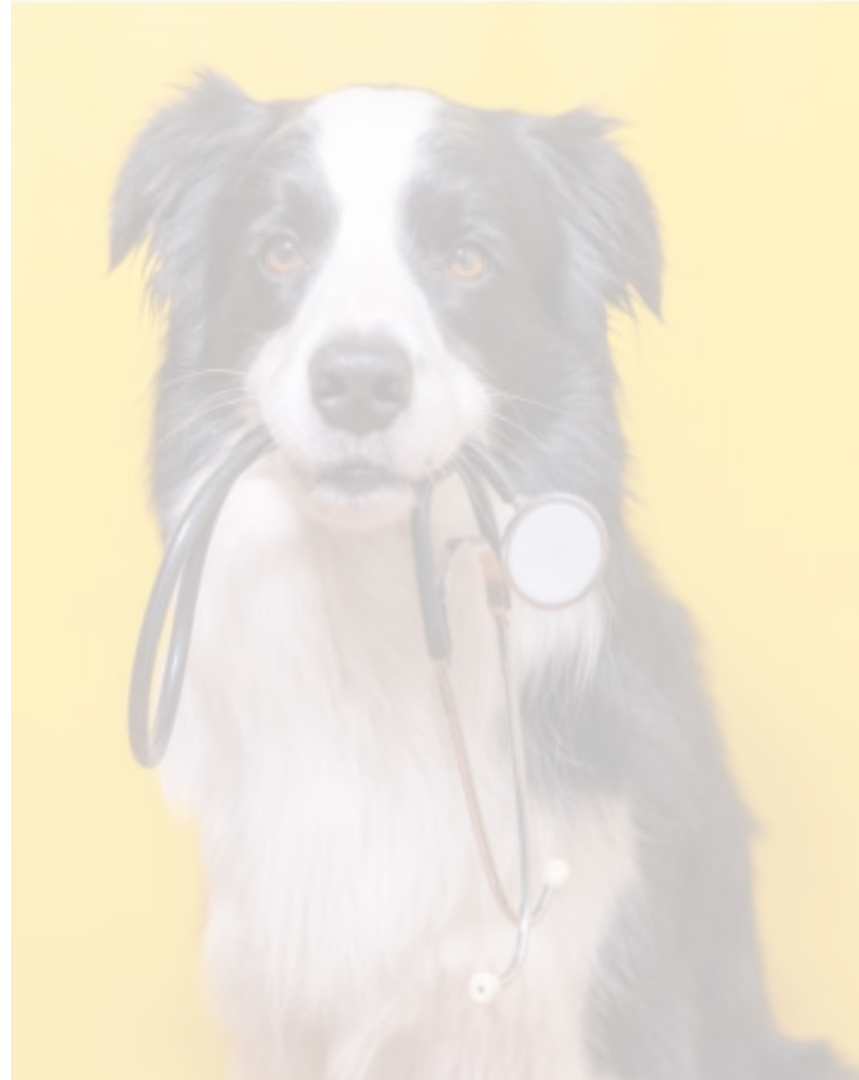
- Traditional approaches to clinical training
- SOC pedagogy

## AAVMC Spectrum of Care Initiative

- Goals
- Process

## Challenges & Misconceptions

- Building bridges
- How we can work together



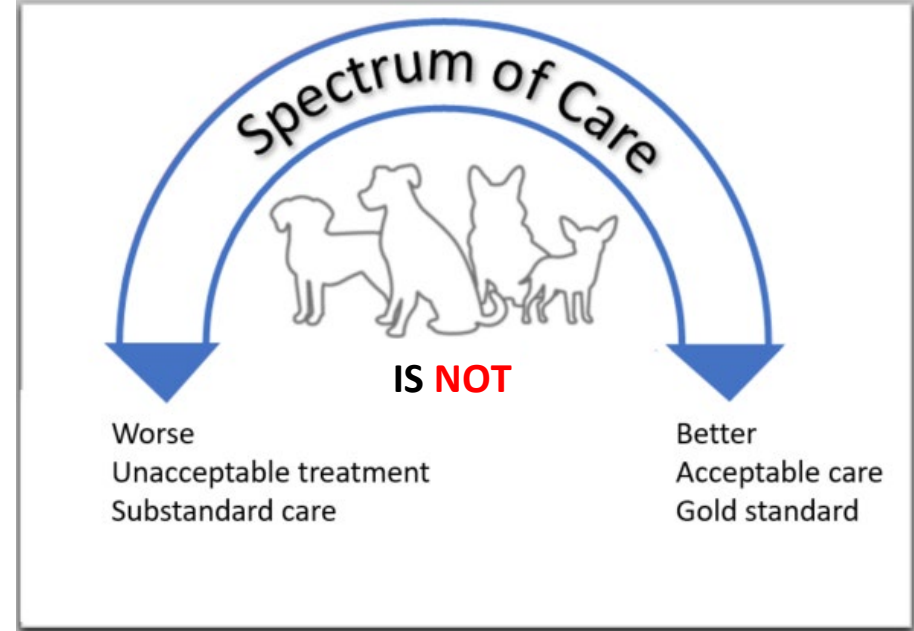
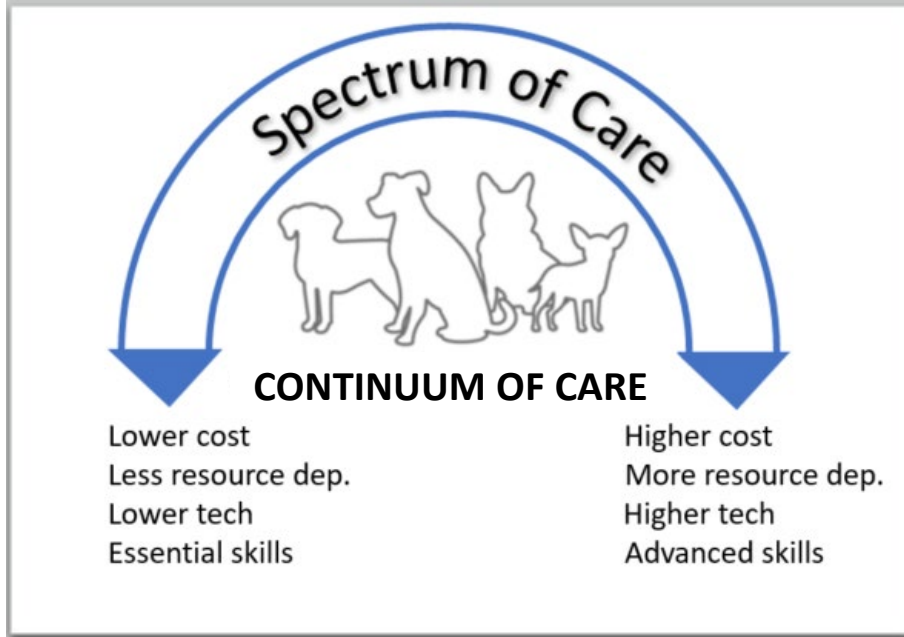
# What is Spectrum of Care

## Question

1. All the things a veterinarian should know how to do
2. The ability to provide care across a spectrum of species
3. The concept that veterinary care exists along a continuum
4. All types of practice outside of specialty medicine

# What is Spectrum of Care

## A continuum of care options



# What is Spectrum of Care

## In the literature

### The term SOC has been defined as:

“the wide spectrum of diagnostic and treatment options [that veterinarians] can provide for their patients.” (Stull et al., 2018, p. 1386)

### Practicing across the spectrum entails:

“providing a continuum of acceptable care that...

- Considers available evidence-based medicine
- Is responsive to client expectations and financial limitations” (Fingland et al., 2021, p. 464)
- Integrates “a broad range of client factors that affect care.” (Englar & Dial, 2022, p.6)

# What is Spectrum of Care

## A unifying concept

**Contextualizing Care** – Adapting research evidence to patient life context

**Incremental Care** – Stepwise diagnostics and treatments

**Sequenced Care** – Providing diagnostics and treatments in a specific order

**Stepped Care** – Most effective, least resource intensive care is delivered first

**Access to Care** – Universal and equitable availability of care

# Importance of Spectrum of Care

## Increasing access to care



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**A lack of affordable, accessible care poses a tremendous challenge for veterinarians**

### **Spectrum of Care STRATEGY**

- Overcoming barriers to veterinary care
- Providing some type of care for patients
- Addressing problems of affordability
- Impacting issues of accessibility
- Serving socioeconomically diverse clientele

# Importance of Spectrum of Care

## Managing the realities of practice



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**Many factors impact the reality of patient care**

### **Spectrum of Care PRACTICE**

- Establishing a relationship of trust
- Managing realistic expectations
- Contextualizing the care plan
- Emphasizing communication and documentation
- Gathering data and applying evidence



# Spectrum of Care

## Factors influencing spectrum of care options



**Client** - beliefs, values, goals, resources, relationship with pet



**Research evidence** - safety, efficacy, guidelines



**Practice** - goals, culture, resources, network



**Veterinarian** – misconceptions/fears around litigation



**Veterinarian** – knowledge, skills, confidence

Block G. A new look at standard of care. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2018;252:1343–1344

Routly JE, Taylor R, Turner R, et al. The first few years of practice: perceptions of recent graduates and senior partners. *Vet Rec* 2002;150:167–171

Dicks MR, Bain B, Knippenberg R. *AVMA 2015 report on employment in veterinary markets*. Schaumburg, Ill: AVMA, 2015

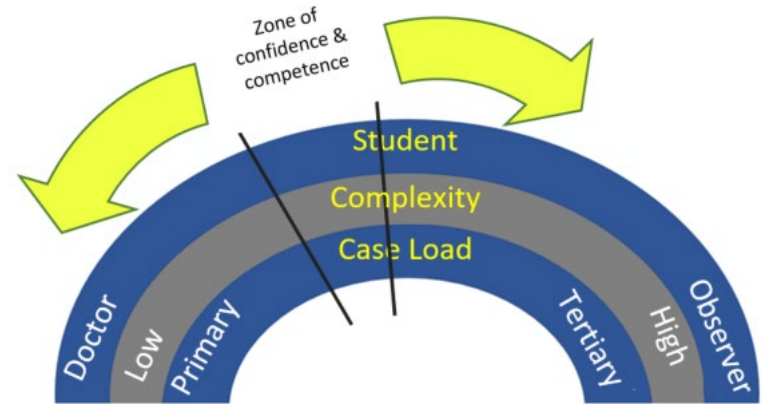
Stull JW, Shelby JA, Bonnett BN, et al. Barriers and next steps to providing a spectrum of effective health care to companion animals. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2018;253:1386–1389

# Spectrum of Care

An established practice, an emerging pedagogy

## Instructional strategies and pedagogical approaches

Educating career-ready veterinarians who can provide a wide range of care options to a diverse clientele

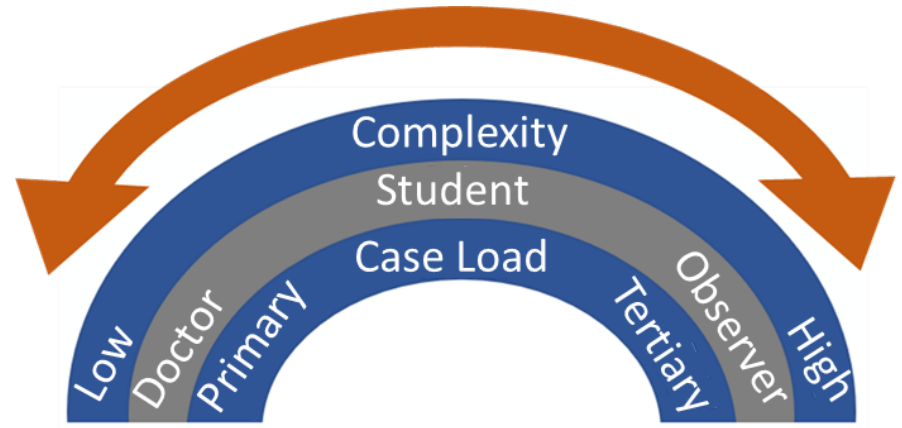


# Spectrum of Care

## As a pedagogy

### Process of educating career-ready veterinarians

- Refocusing clinical training
- Teaching across the spectrum
- Continuum of clinical training
- “Student as doctor”
- Hands-on experiences



# AAVMC Spectrum of Care Initiative

## History & purpose



- **Est. 2021** with support from The Stanton Foundation
- **Purpose:** Provide the infrastructure and support for an inclusive and collaborative approach to enhancing SOC pedagogy in veterinary education
- **Structure:** Task Force - unites the workforce and education community

# AAVMC Spectrum of Care Initiative

## Goals



- ✓ **Year 1: 2022-2023** Develop a competency-based SOC Education Model
- ❑ **Year 2: 2023-2024** Establish implementation guidelines to support model integration
- ❑ **Next Steps: 2024+** Pilot studies to evaluate & refine the model and guidelines

# Developing a Spectrum of Care Pedagogy

## Future Steps: Pilot Studies

Analyze Pilot Data: Revise & Re-evaluate

Implement into Pilot Programs

## Year 2 Goal Guidelines

Faculty Support Resources

Change Management Strategies

## Year 1 Goal Education Model

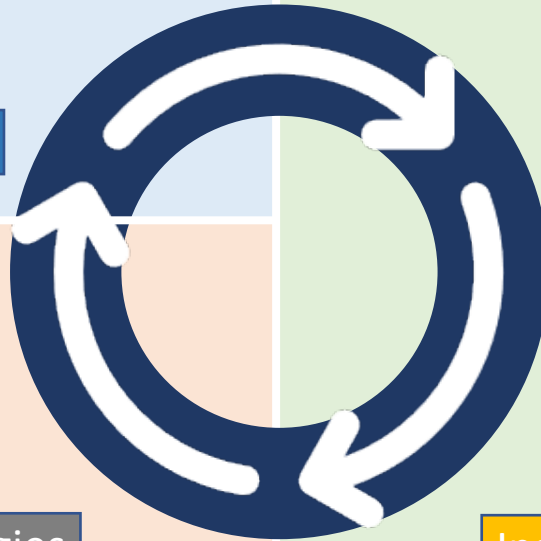
Build Collaborations

Competencies, Learning Outcomes

Assessments

Instructional Strategies

Curriculum Mapping



# Building the SOC Education Model

## Evidence-based methods

### Curricular elements identified through rigorous research

- Structured interviews / focus groups
- Findings from peer-reviewed research
- Recommendations from assessments guides and toolkits
- Methodologies across healthcare professions
- Iterative modified Delphi techniques

# Looking Ahead Towards Implementation

## Change management strategies

- Gather thoughts/attitudes of key stakeholders to identify:
  - Change barriers/resistance
  - Misconceptions/misunderstandings
  - Change champions
  - Success stories
- Demonstrate how change is supported
- Partner with stakeholders outside of academia
- Identify incentives and rewards



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# Identifying Stakeholder Thoughts/Attitudes

## Challenges and misconceptions revealed

Conversations during development of the SOC Education Model revealed challenges and misconceptions about SOC practice



# Identifying Stakeholder Thoughts/Attitudes

## Examples of challenges and misconceptions

### Pedagogical challenges & misconceptions

- Faculty cohesiveness
- Hidden curriculum
- Time and resources to make curricular change

### Practice challenges & misconceptions

- Negative impacts on business and compensation
- Judgement by colleagues
- Fears of litigation

# Identifying Stakeholder Thoughts/Attitudes

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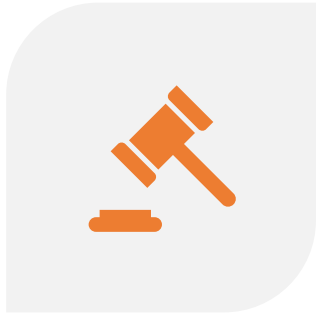
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# Identifying Stakeholder Thoughts/Attitudes

## Examples of challenges and misconceptions



FEAR OF LITIGATION



IDENTIFY  
MISUNDERSTANDINGS



CLARIFY  
MISUNDERSTANDINGS

We Need Your Help!

# How Can We Work Together?

## Building bridges



# How Can We Work Together?

## Building bridges

### Academic Partnership

- Working with faculty - support resources
- Working with students - identifying and clarifying misinformation

### Practice Partnership

- Mentorship programs supporting transition to practice
- Professional development resources

### AAVSB Partnership

- Joining the SOCI Advisory Community
- Transition to practice/professional development programs
- Speaking to each other's membership to clarify misunderstandings

**Thank You!**



Additional Questions?  
Contact: [soci@aavmc.org](mailto:soci@aavmc.org)