2023 Impact Report

Companion Animal Health Fund
We’ve continued our mission to contribute to the protection and promotion of animal and human health and welfare through education, research, and service throughout 2023. Our cohort continued to grow, with the admission of fifty-five eager new Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students, our largest admission since our inception in 2008.

This year has been a busy one for us, full of exciting new initiatives and partnerships. We’ve laid the groundwork for a permanent Community Care Clinic, which will address the growing need for affordable veterinary access to pet owners, while simultaneously providing a practice ground for our future DVM students to gain hands-on, real life experience.

Our emerging scholars and research faculty members continue to break ground on some of the most challenging questions facing us today. With multi-disciplinary focuses, from anti-microbial resistance to zoonotic diseases to animal welfare, the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) is well poised to bring forth concrete innovations to improve both animal and human health and welfare.

As explorers of the natural world, we often find that as we depart down one pathway, one research question, we encounter bumps and detours along the way. We crest one horizon, only to find another. We take one off-shoot, leading us to a bountiful world of further questions and queries. I wish to thank you for your continued support for all we do. Your contributions to our animal health funds allow us to advance animal and human health while giving exciting opportunities to our students. I welcome you to come visit, my door is always open to chat with fellow explorers.
2023 was an exciting year for the growth and development of UCVM and our corresponding Animal Health Funds. Our Bovine, Equine, Companion Animal, and Wildlife Health Funds are the catalyst of support to vital areas of teaching and research, as well as clinical and diagnostic activities.

Research is a journey, not a destination. As we answer our research questions, those answers often open a door to further questions. We continue along this road, knowing that we will always have further to go, while enjoying the journey nonetheless.

This year, I will pass along the torch of the health funds steering committee to a new lead, as I embark on a research and scholarship leave.

I feel confident passing leadership along to another of my esteemed colleagues. Over the past year we have established a robust process for application and adjudication, drawing a strong map to guide us as we navigate our research goals.

I would personally like to thank you for your support of the Health Funds, as well as invite you to continue along with us on our journey.
Anyone who has been fortunate enough to have a pet, has known the unconditional love and companionship that they provide.

Our researchers at UCVM continue to advance companion animal treatment and knowledge, improving the length and quality of time we have with our beloved companions.
Thank you from Dr. Julie Menard, DVM, DACVECC
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

We have embarked on the first steps of our research journey in our study of effects of omeprazole on the gastrointestinal microbiome and metabolome in healthy dogs. Understanding these effects is crucial as humans have experienced adverse side-effects on their gastrointestinal microbiome from omeprazole, yet this aspect remains unexplored in veterinary medicine.

THE PROJECT

We have made significant progress in preparation for the study, including recruitment of all necessary participants, and a supply of food to ensure dietary consistency amongst subjects. Your donation will be used to cover the expenses associated with purchasing medications (omeprazole and placebo capsules), acquiring engineered capsules for the collection of small intestinal microbiome and metabolome samples and conducting microbiome and metabolome analysis.

MOVING FORWARD

With your support, we will be able to conduct a randomized, single-blinded, placebo-controlled study that aims to shed light on the impact of proton pump inhibitor drugs, such as omeprazole, on the gastrointestinal microbiome in dogs.

We are waiting for legal assessment and approval and eagerly anticipate the trial in early 2024.

I extend my sincerest gratitude for your generous support of our research endeavors. Your contribution will enable us to make significant strides in advancing veterinary medicine and improving the health and well-being of dogs.
Thank you from Dr. Daniel Pang, BVSc, PhD, DECVAA, DACVAA, FRCVS
Professor, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Thank you for your generous contribution towards our research project investigating the efficacy of sedation and pain management protocols for bearded dragons. Despite their growing popularity as pets, there is still a lack of knowledge in this area, and your contribution will help address this gap in our understanding. Bearded dragons are not only fascinating creatures but also cherished companions to many. It is our responsibility to ensure their well-being, especially when it comes to veterinary care. Your generous donation will enable us to conduct research that will not only benefit the scientific community but also directly improve the health and welfare of these beloved animals.

THE PROJECT

This funding is essential for establishing a new research project aimed at understanding safe and effective anesthesia protocols for bearded dragons. Despite their growing popularity as pets, there is still a lack of knowledge in this area, and your contribution will help address this gap in our understanding. Bearded dragons are not only fascinating creatures but also cherished companions to many. It is our responsibility to ensure their well-being, especially when it comes to veterinary care. Your generous donation will enable us to conduct research that will not only benefit the scientific community but also directly improve the health and welfare of these beloved animals.

MOVING FORWARD

After the project’s completion, the animals involved will be available for adoption, further emphasizing our commitment to their welfare. We believe that every bearded dragon deserves access to the best possible veterinary care, and your support brings us one step closer to achieving this goal.

While it is still early days, we are actively working on identifying ways of measuring sedation and differentiating between sedation and general anesthesia. Your support has provided us with the resources needed to embark on this important research journey.
Conducting research that addresses issues of importance to our animal industries at the interface of animal and human health, we are coming up with innovative solutions and training the next generation of clinicians and researchers.

For over 10 years, UCVM has worked to support a shortage of veterinarians serving Alberta.

As an internationally recognized and accredited provider of high-quality veterinary education, we are an acknowledged leader in comparative biomedical, veterinary and population health research.

Our research, graduate education and clinical training programs advance animal and human health — where innovation meets community.

DONATE HERE

Contact us to learn more:
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