2022 Impact Report

BOVINE HEALTH FUND
Message from Dr. Renate Weller
Dean and Professor, UCVM

2022 brought many successes and accomplishments for UCVM. On behalf of myself, faculty, staff and students at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), we are immeasurably grateful for the generosity that made these research, employment and purchases possible.

Our vision continues to be bringing innovation and community together to advance animal, human and environmental health. Through your giving to UCVM, you have sparked meaningful change.

As we get set to double our cohort in 2025, we are excited to continue and expand the teaching and research initiatives that have made UCVM known provincially and internationally. With a focus on supporting emerging scholars and continuing to support tomorrow’s veterinarians, I know that 2023 will be just as exciting.

I hope that I get an opportunity to connect with each one of you along the way. We would be very happy to welcome you for a tour of our facilities if this would be of interest to you.

Best,
Dr. Renate Weller
Dean and Professor, UCVM

Message from Dr. Ashley Whitehead
Associate Dean, Clinical Affairs

In 2022, the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine’s (UCVM) Animal Health Funds continued to build momentum. We had the largest funding call, in our history, with 10 projects in all species areas benefiting from the generous donations of our community.

This report demonstrates that the Animal Health Funds have supported research, clinical, diagnostic and educational activities within UCVM as well as supporting our faculty’s clinical practice in our Distributed Veterinary Learning Community (DVLC), thus directly benefiting Alberta animals and their owners.

We are especially proud of the three students who were supported by the Animal Health Fund grants to assist faculty in clinical research during the summer months. This year, continue to keep an eye out for UCVM faculty and students in your populace. As a community focused faculty, we are developing solutions for our province’s animal issues. This includes everything from cattle respiratory viruses to equine lameness evaluation, to understanding pain in dogs.

Thank you for advancing human and animal health through your support of UCVM’s Animal Health Funds.

Dr. Ashley Whitehead
Associate Dean, Clinical Affairs
Associate Professor (Teaching), Equine Clinical Sciences

Read how UCVM’s Dean recently received the Alberta’s Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Learn more about Dr. Whitehead. She has been on faculty at UCVM since 2010 and teaches across the curriculum in a wide variety of courses including Equine Medicine & Surgery, Clinical Skills, Clinical Presentations and Professional Skills.
Cattle have long been an essential part of Alberta’s history, identity and economy!

Your support of the Bovine Health Fund at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine makes a tremendous difference to advancing the health of cattle in Alberta and beyond. Contributions enabled UCVM to hire a summer student to explore bison herd migration that carry certain diseases.
Thank you from Louise Caplan
DVM Student, Class of 2026

I wanted to sincerely thank you for contributing to the Bovine Health Fund. This funding permitted me to work over the summer with professors Dr. David C. Hall and Dr. Kyle Plotsky from the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

I was able to work on a project that dove into bison conservation. A key question during my learning was how to limit the spread of certain diseases, like brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis, which would be carried by bison to areas outside the Wood Buffalo National Park, which could cause possible cattle herd transmission.

This research has provided me with countless skills that I have been able to use during my first year of school, such as, knowledge in statistics, building a model and conducting a research project.

Your gracious generosity also enabled UVCM to:

1. Begin a pilot study that could help detect bovine respiratory disease in cattle

   The study is underway in its early stages and aims to develop an on-farm genomics-based diagnostic test for rapid detection of bacteria (and their antimicrobial resistance) responsible for causing bovine respiratory disease in cattle. The amount of funding support received from the Bovine Health Funds was leveraged to yield approximately 6.5 times the value in additional external funds. To date, genomics software has been created and semi-automated DNA/RNA methodology is currently being refined in the laboratory in preparation for field testing in 2023.

2. Collect eggs from cattle more efficiently

   Dr. Thundathil used the Bovine Health Funds to acquire a new piece of equipment that assists in egg retrievals from live cattle for laboratory production of embryos. Canadian cattle producers are very interested in this technology for commercial production of embryos that could contribute to the improvement of Alberta cattle genetics.
UCVM has a Distributed Veterinary Learning Community (DVLC) – this unique teaching and learning model embeds faculty and students directly in the community in order to:

- **Identify real needs** with respect to clinical research in Alberta animals
- **Relay scientific discoveries** directly to animal owners and community clinics
- **Enhance clinical skills** teaching curriculum, as instructors draw from real life experiences
- **Equip students** for the reality of clinical practice

More about cows!

- Vet med prof receives prestigious award for dairy cattle research
  Learn more
- How do bucking bulls really feel about rodeos?
  Learn more
- Mutual Attraction: W. A. Ranches Investigates How Bats and Cattle Can Help Each Other
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