2022 Impact Report

Companion Animal 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.
Pets

are important members of our families!

Along with the joy they bring to our homes, they play an integral role in our families’ mental health and wellness. Your support of the Companion Animal Health Fund at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine assisted in the completion of a study on the effects of dogs in relation to a specific drug and the method of administering.
Thank you from Brielle Rosa  
Assistant Professor of Veterinary Pharmacology

This year, I received support from the UCVM Companion Animal Health Fund to assist with the fulfillment of a study on the effect of combined subcutaneous administration of Maropitant (Cerenia®) with Lactated Ringer’s solution in dogs. This study was conducted as an investigative medicine rotation project by fourth-year veterinary student Deborah Yee, under the supervision of Dr. Julie Menard and myself.

Maropitant is a veterinary anti-nausea/anti-emetic drug that is very commonly used in the treatment of dogs. It is highly effective but is also painful when injected subcutaneously (under the skin). Therefore, many veterinarians administer it diluted in commonly used fluids such as Lactated Ringer’s solution, which is an injectable fluid and electrolyte replacement solution. This is perceived to reduce pain on injection and is also efficient, as many dogs that are vomiting are also dehydrated and would be routinely treated with subcutaneous fluids. However, no previous data are available on whether administration diluted in fluids impacts the absorption or excretion of the drug. We found that administration of maropitant diluted in Lactated Ringer’s solution does reduce its maximum plasma concentration in dogs.

This study served as an excellent learning opportunity for fourth-year veterinary student Deborah Yee, who led the project. She had the opportunity to learn about study design, animal care, pharmacokinetics, mass spectrometry (including attending a special training session at a local mass spectrometry facility), and to write the final paper reporting the results of this research.

Our results have been submitted to the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) and we are currently awaiting the decision of the reviewers.

My sincere thanks to the donors who helped make this study possible. Opportunities like this are so important for students and faculty members alike and give us the chance to add to the cumulative knowledge of the veterinary community.

Hire summer student Anisha Jessel

Support from the Companion Animal Health Fund allowed the hiring of summer student Anisha Jessel who spent a busy and productive term working with supervisor Daniel Pang. Her research focused on understanding and improving the welfare of animals during euthanasia procedures which she presented on the Annual UCVM SURE Research Day 2022.
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 small animals!**

**The tale of Astro, an injured rescue dog**
UCalgary vet med grad adopts canine patient after 4th-year shelter medicine rotation

Learn more

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