



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and updates

BVSc 2024 graduation dinner: A night to remember

On the evening of December 5, 2024, the 2024 BVSc graduating cohort gathered at the stunning Hillstone St Lucia venue to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work, growth, and camaraderie. Thanks to the support of the School, our generous sponsors, and the tireless efforts of the grad dinner committee in fundraising and behind-the-scenes decor, the venue was transformed into a true graduation celebration — a fitting finale to our shared journey.



A total of 191 staff, students, sponsors, and special guests came together to mark this special occasion. The evening began with heartfelt addresses from our beloved cohort mentor, Dr John Mallyon, and our esteemed Head of School, Professor Nigel Perkins. Sixteen student awards were presented, recognising the outstanding achievements and contributions of the cohort throughout the year, along with two staff awards: the Golden Speculum and the Golden Dissection Kit. Many heartwarming moments followed as staff, lecturers, and mentors shared words of encouragement and wished the cohort well for the future.

The night was filled with unforgettable moments, including an original student performance by Dr Corey Paulson, who wrote a song for the cohort, and a hilarious mock awards segment that had the entire cohort in stitches. We even had two "shoeys" for the books!

This event reflected our collective journey — a celebration of accomplishments and a bittersweet farewell to our time together as a cohort after five incredible years. It marked the end of a chapter and the beginning of a new one.

A special thanks to all the staff for their endless guidance, support, and encouragement - we could not have done this without you, and to the School for their unwavering support. We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors: *Pet Angel*, our principal sponsor; *Provet*, our major sponsor; and *VetLove*, our prize sponsor. Without their generosity, this night would not have been possible.

Here's to new beginnings and a bright future ahead!

Chiron Shield proudly displayed outside the Veterinary Science Building

The School has arranged for the historic Chiron Shield and Banner to be saved from the Seddon Building in St Lucia and installed at the entry to the Veterinary Science Building. The Shield was a gift from the AVA (Queensland Division) to the University in 1961. The plaque explaining the significance of the Chiron was already located inside the Veterinary Science Building and has now been placed next to the Shield.



UQ Vet Tech graduate Kimberley Weir recognised by VNCA

Congratulations to UQ SVS Bachelor of Applied Science (Veterinary Technology) graduate 2012 Kimberley Weir, who has recently been awarded the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia Veterinary Nurse/Veterinary Technician of the Year Award. Kimberley is currently Nursing Manager at Veterinary Specialist Services, Merrimac, Queensland. Kimberley is

also a Veterinary Technician Specialist (Small Animal Internal Medicine). You can [find out more on the VNCA website](#).



Canine hookworm research makes the news

Swaid Abdullah has appeared in the media lately for his research on growing drug resistance in canine hookworms, which is published in the *International Journal of Parasitology*. Some of the media coverage is available below:

- [9 News](#)
- [7 News](#)
- [News-Medical.Net](#)

The research is also featured in [UQ News](#).



Participate in our Labrador & Golden Retriever research project

Are you the proud owner of an adult Labrador or Golden Retriever? We invite you and your canine companion to contribute to our cutting-edge research project.

Project focus:

We aim to clarify the intricate relationship between obesity/overweight and its impact on canine health parameters such as metabolic status, intestinal microbiome, and cognitive function.



Study components:

- Comprehensive health assessment: Rigorous evaluations encompassing a complete physical exam, body condition score assessment and cognitive function tests.
- Laboratory: Blood and faecal samples will be collected to determine your dog's health status at the initial screening visit. Then, intestinal microbiome composition and body metabolic and inflammatory parameters will be evaluated at pre-screening as well as weeks 0, 12, and 24.
- Dietary & exercise protocol: Our sponsor, Hills Pet® Food, will provide the diet, a commercial dry pet food **free of charge** throughout the 28-week study period as long as your dog stays enrolled. Additionally, a tailored exercise regimen will be designed to complement the dietary intervention. Each participant will be outfitted with a tracking activity collar to monitor physical activity patterns.
- Imaging: Dogs participating in this study will undergo ultrasonography at the same time points as above during the study. Images generated by ultrasound will offer a better understanding of body composition changes over time.
- Surveys: Pet parents will be invited to answer questions about their dog's cognitive skills, behaviour and quality of life.

Why participate?

- **Advancing scientific knowledge:** Your Labrador or Golden Retriever could contribute to valuable scientific discoveries that will benefit the wider canine population.
- **Personalised benefits:** Your dog will be examined by a veterinarian free of charge at the beginning of the study to confirm inclusion in the study. Laboratory work, including haematology, biochemistry, urinalysis, urine cortisol and thyroid hormone check will be performed free of charge (value of \$500) to ensure the absence of an overt underlying disease prior to enrolment.
- **Free high-quality food for your dog for half a year:** Participating dogs will receive 28 weeks of high-quality, tailored nutrition provided by Hills Pet Food (total value of \$1,000).
- **Personalised exercise program for your dog:** Participating dogs will have a tailored exercise program designed for them, and you will be able to track their activity throughout the day with an activity tracker borrowed for the time of the study.

All at no cost to you!

Ethical framework and confidentiality:

Our main priority is the welfare of participant canines. Stringent adherence to ethical guidelines and the assurance of data confidentiality underscores our commitment to participant well-being (Ethics ID numbers: 2024/HE000954 and 2024/AE000003). Voluntary participation is emphasised, with the prerogative of withdrawal retained throughout the study's duration.

How to enrol:

For any inquiries or to join our research project, please feel free to contact Dr Priscila Corso, Veterinary Researcher at retriever.dog.study@uq.edu.au. We look forward to welcoming you and your furry friend on board!

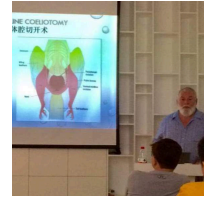
Let's work together to keep our Labrador and Golden Retriever companions healthy and happy for years to come!

Upcoming events and opportunities

SVS 14th Annual Teaching Forum

Please see the [program](#) for details. All are welcome! The course coordinators workshop will follow at 2pm. Please [RSVP](#) for catering.

Date: Wednesday 29 January
Time: 9:00am - 1pm
Location: 8106-211 John Mahon Building



UQVETS Horseman's Lecture Series

Join us for an informative event focused on keeping our four-legged friends healthy and happy. [Our lectures](#) will cover a range of topics related to equine health, from nutrition to common illnesses.

Date: Saturday February 1
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Location: 8255-105 Hamon Centre Learning Theatre



In case of confirmed emergencies such as gas explosions, life threats, confirmed fire, please contact **000** - remember to call out of UQ first by dialling another 0 first, i.e. **0-000**.

For medical emergencies, UQ still mandates UQ Security be contacted first, all hours, on ext **53333** or **3365 3333**.

In both cases, remember to let them know you are calling from UQ GATTON campus and in the latter case, your building number.

- 8114 (Veterinary Science Building)
- 8106 (Veterinary Teaching Building including Anatomy, Post-mortem, MPL and Histo labs)
- 8156 (Veterinary Medical Centre)
- 8179 (Clinical Studies Centre)

[School of Veterinary Science](#), The University of Queensland, Phone: (07) 5460 1834

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