



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and updates

Building on Strengths: A Successful Mock Accreditation Visit

An accreditation mock visit was conducted in early May by Professor Jenny Seddon (James Cook Uni) and Dr Henry Annandale (Murdoch Uni). Prof Josh Slater (UniMelb) contributed via Zoom. The visit was really important to help understand how the September visit will be managed and how we need to prepare as we enter into rooms for the real meetings in September. Jenny and Henry were excellent with genuine questions probing our accreditation readiness then moving into feedback and coaching interactions. Jenny and Henry were both very complimentary about the engagement and passion from everyone in the meetings and your responses to their questions – fantastic feedback to hear.



One of the common themes from the debrief at the end of the visit was that there are many parts of our facilities and our curriculum and the way we manage our program(s) that are very high quality and we need to be leading with all of the positive stories about what we do and about student outcomes. We have challenges (all vet schools do) and these need to be presented as well – along with what we are doing about them. But the general sense was that we have much to be proud of and a great team of people – an excellent foundation to build on as we prepare for the real visit.

Now the mock visit is completed the School will be finalising its packages for the accreditation bodies and preparing for the real site visit in September. Staff can reach out to Rachel Allavena anytime if they have questions or concerns.

Photo: Head of School Nigel Perkins, Fran Shapter and Anthony Romilio with Jenny Seddon and Henry Annandale

Logan Animal Management Centre Opens New Chapter with \$21M Redevelopment

On the first Saturday in April, Logan City Council's Animal Management Centre had over 1,000 visitors! They were there to help celebrate the Open Day of Council's \$21 million redevelopment of the facility.



The Animal Management Centre provides a safe haven for stray, lost, and abandoned animals while staff work diligently to reunite them with their owners. For those not reclaimed, the centre offers a second chance through its thoughtful adoption program.

A key feature of the upgrade is a new veterinary clinic run by Combined Vets of Logan City designed to provide low-cost desexing and microchipping to help encourage responsible pet ownership. Currently there are over 60,000 registered cats and dogs across Logan City!

The clinic also supports our final-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science students who rotate through the clinic in small groups of three to four. Students gain invaluable hands-on experience in animal examinations, anaesthesia, and desexing procedures—each supervised by experienced UQ clinical educators. Our Bachelor of Veterinary Technology students have also been attending Logan Animal Management Centre and working with CVLC for many years as part of their final year clinical training. They too are enjoying the new facilities. This practical training plays a crucial role in developing our students' surgical skills and building their overall confidence as future professionals.

One of the highlights was the clinic tours, where our veterinary students provided entertaining surgical demonstrations on unicorn toys and giant teddy bears! It was a fun and memorable way to showcase their skills while engaging with the community.

Photo: Head of School Nigel Perkins assisted the Mayor with the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new clinic

Celebrating 15 Years of Veterinary Education Partnership in Vietnam

From April 11 to 18 Rachel Allavena attended Nong Lam University Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam for teaching, the graduation ceremony, and to celebrate the 15-year anniversary of The University of Queensland and Nong Lam University's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine's partnership for the Advanced Veterinary Program. The program is taught in English and is based on UQ's curriculum. The graduates of the advanced veterinary program are well recognised in Vietnam as leaders of the profession and are sought out for roles in industry throughout Asia. Vietnam is experiencing rapid economic growth, and the veterinary sector is no exception. Small animal medicine is becoming more popular with graduates, as is specialization. The commemoration included a lovely celebration party with lots of Tiger Beer and Karaoke (neither of which Rachel participated in).



Hands-on Learning in Focus at UQVSA Equine Dentistry Workshop

On Saturday, May 3, the UQVSA Equine Special Interest Group held its highly anticipated Equine Dentistry Workshop at the UQ Gatton Equine Unit with 36 students attending. The day offered students an invaluable opportunity to deepen their understanding of equine dental health through a combination of theory, expert-led discussion, and practical experience with live horses.



Participants rotated through hands-on stations covering the fundamentals of an equine dental, including the intra-oral exam, the use of dental floats, and identification of common dental pathology. The workshop was led by a team of experienced veterinarians: Dr. Olivia James (The Equine Practice Company), Dr. Ligia Pentzke (UQ Vets), Dr. Slade Walker (Old Mill Vet Equine Service), and Dr. Emily Mabbott (Equivet QLD), who generously donated their time and expertise to mentor and provide feedback to students throughout the day.

Adding to the value of the event, Dr. Jennifer Stewart from Jenquine delivered an insightful guest lecture on equine nutrition and its relationship to dental health, encouraging students to consider the broader picture of equine wellbeing.

Workshops like this are a fantastic addition to compliment the BVSc programme curriculum at UQ, equipping students with the practical skills, professional insight, and confidence they need to succeed in equine practice. A big thank you to all the clinicians, sponsors, the School of Veterinary Science, and of-course, the enthusiastic students who made the day a great success!

Congratulations to Our SVS 3MT Competition Winners!

The results are in, and we are thrilled to announce the winners of this year's SVS Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition held on Friday the 23 May!



Each of the five SVS competitors delivered an outstanding presentation, captivating the audience with their research and storytelling.

🏆 Winner: **Ella-Maree Watkins** - Pawsitive Pregnancy: Investigating Detection Dogs for Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis

🥈 Runner-Up: **Abhilasha Dadhich** - LIGHT in the life of TARRA, The Tasmanian Devil

👏 People's Choice Award: **Ella-Maree Watkins** - Pawsitive Pregnancy: Investigating Detection Dogs for Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis

A huge congratulations to all participants for their incredible efforts, and a heartfelt thank you to our judges: SVS Judging Panel: Dr Rebekah Scotney, Dr Noman Naseem and A/Prof Steven Zedler and Professor Ricardo J. Soares Magalhães,

We also extend our gratitude to the Graduate School for their invaluable support in making this event possible and providing the sweet stuff for the tea break, and the prizes sponsored by the Faculty of Science.

Thank you to our audience and supporters for celebrating the brilliance of SVS research with us. Stay tuned for more opportunities to showcase groundbreaking work, and let's continue celebrating the power of effective and fun communication!

Mark your calendars—the Faculty of Science 3MT Final will take place on Monday the 28 of July at St Lucia Campus. Both the winner and runner-up are invited to present. This is the next stage of the competition, where winners will compete for a chance to advance further in the competition.

Photo: Winners Ella-Maree Watkins and Abhilasha Dadhich pose with HDR Director Gry Boe-Hansen

From Student to Scholar: Tracy Tang Presents at AVA Research Day

Tracy Tang (BVSc class 2024) presented the results of her VETS5017 research project at the AVA Research Day in Sydney this month. Tracy proudly represented UQ giving an overview of her project entitled 'Clinical features, diagnostic findings, and treatment outcomes in 12 dogs with protozoal disease: a case series (2017-2023)' that she completed last year under the supervision of Dr Erika Meler. While working as a small animal rotating intern, Tracy is finalising the writing of the manuscript which will be submitted to the Australian Veterinary Journal in the coming weeks. Well done Tracy!



Looking for Love? Meet our Adorable Cats Ready for Adoption

The Clinical Studies Centre presently has seven cats available for adoption. Younger or older, all shapes, sizes and colours, we have a cat for everyone. Check out the [profiles here](#). Please contact us for an adoption appointment. Phone: 5460 1868 or email: svs-csc@uq.edu.au



Lead Through Learning - UQ's response to AI

You may have heard about the "Lead Through Learning" project and the steps we need to take in response to AI. The Faculty of Science has appointed two Learning Designers to assist us through this process, primarily through a series of workshops. The first run of workshops has been scheduled. See below for more details.

Additional information about Lead Through Learning can be found [on this webpage](#).

Assessment Health Check workshop

The Assessment Health Check workshop is an opportunity for you to bring along your course profile(s) and take a look at the full assessment picture in your course(s), identifying things like:

- Are my most important learning objectives being assessed in a secure way?
- Does my assessment align with my learning objectives?
- Should my assessment consider technological advancements in my industry (such as AI tools) that will be relevant to our graduates?
- Is my chosen assessment method the best way to assess the required skills?

This workshop is being offered online and at Gatton and St Lucia campuses. [Register your interest](#).

AI Literacy workshop

The AI Literacy workshop allows participants to consider how you and your students can become familiar with AI in your specific contexts to best prepare them for AI-integrated workplaces. Topics include:

- How to embed the use of AI into assessment and activities to help teach the AI skills students need
- AI ethics, appropriateness, and other considerations, i.e. not just "how" to use AI but also "when is it appropriate to use AI".

This workshop is being offered online and at Gatton campus. [Register your interest](#)

Assessment Security workshop

The Assessment Security workshop considers ways to ensure the most

important learning outcomes of a course are being assessed in ways that can ensure the students have done the work themselves. This includes:

- Checking the current level of security of course assessments
- Brainstorming strategies that can help secure existing assessments
- Considering other modes of assessing the same skills that are more secure

This workshop is being offered online and at Gatton campus. [Register your interest](#)

Anatomic Pathology Meets Neurology in Unique Educational Event at SVS

SVS veterinary students and Anatomic Pathology residents recently had a rare opportunity to deepen their understanding of neuroanatomy and neurological disease thanks to a special visit from neurologist Dr. Christine Thomson and her residents Dr. Perri Rea and Dr. Joseph Cotela from the Animal Referral Hospital (ARH) in Brisbane. The interactive session explored classic neurological disease presentations and their clinical signs, with a focus on anatomical localisation. Attendees included anatomic pathology residents, visiting professionals, and enthusiastic second-, third- and fourth-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science students. The event fostered interdisciplinary learning and highlighted the importance of collaboration between pathology and clinical neurology in advancing animal health.

Got boxes? Bottles? Cartons? Our Dogs Would Love Them!

CSC would love to have your recyclables to make enrichment for the dogs! Newspapers, egg cartons, boxes (biscuits, cereal, etc.), tetra packs, milk cartons, milk cream and juice bottles.

Everything clean, empty and dry, no lids on bottles please - all to prevent cockroaches and mould. Donations can be left at our front door any time.

Our dogs really appreciate your assistance.



Support Their Journey: Help Students Thrive on Placement

Placements are vital to student learning and their preparation for veterinary practice. Sadly, financial pressures sometimes stand in the way of students getting the most from their placement experience.

Giving to support students in placement means removing financial barriers so that tomorrow's veterinarians can focus on their studies, their learning and on one day giving back to the communities they will live and practice in.

Placement poverty is real – and is often heightened when students do practicums in rural and regional communities. The realities of financial hardship can make students reluctant to step too far outside their comfort zone or too far from home.

With your help, students can stop worrying about making ends meet and put their minds to becoming the very best veterinarians they can be, exploring both city and country pathways.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events and opportunities

Veterinary and Animal Science HDR Symposium 2025

Join us for the second annual Veterinary and Animal Science HDR Symposium! For catering purposes, please [register](#) by June 2 to be an audience member. You can download the program for the day either within the registration form or via this [link](#).

Date: Thursday 5 June

Time: 9:30am-5pm

Location: UQ Gatton, Hamon Centre Learning Theatre

Fifth Year Conference Week

Conference week is approaching so please save the date. Staff are encouraged to attend the [student presentations](#).

Date: 23-26 June
Time: 9am-4:30pm
Location: UQ Gatton, Hamon Centre Learning Theatre

SVS Curriculum Review Day

All teaching staff are encouraged to attend the Curriculum Review Day on Friday 11 July. The focus this year will be on preparing for accreditation. Topics will include curriculum vision, curriculum mapping, program learning objectives, curriculum structure, course lists, course learning objectives, NAVLE literacy, programmatic assessment literacy, assessment maps, and assessment writing.

Please RSVP to [Claire Girvin](#) for catering purposes.

Date: Friday 11 July
Time: 8:30am-3:15pm
Location: 8117-117/118 - Management Studies Building, Combined Collaborative Room

Compassion fatigue training - bookings now open

The following in-person compassion fatigue training for workers and supervisors in animal-related occupations are now available for registration:

[Compassion Fatigue in Animal-Related Occupations – Part 1](#) (Part 2 to be offered in 2026)

Target audience: Non-supervisory staff working with animals. Non-animal facing staff (e.g., administrative personnel) who may also be impacted by animal work in their area are also able to attend.

[Supervisory Skills in Animal-Related Occupations](#)

This course is designed for supervisors who are responsible for staff who work with animals to help guard against occupational stress and fatigue.

Note: The trainings are planned for Gatton Campus only in 2025. They will be offered at St Lucia and Gatton campuses in 2026.

Supporting students with mental health concerns – workshop for staff

Staff who interact directly with students are encouraged to attend the Supporting Students with Mental Health Concerns workshop on 17 July, 10am–1pm at Gatton Campus.

This 3-hour in-person session, led by the Counselling Team, will help build awareness and skills in identifying and supporting students with mental health concerns. Topics covered include:

- ✓ Understanding mental health in a university context
- ✓ Identifying signs of mental ill-health
- ✓ How to support students
- ✓ Referral pathways to support services

Learn more and register here.

For any questions, please contact Eliza Birtles at e.birtles@uq.edu.au.

Date: 17 July
Time: 10am-1pm
Location: UQ Gatton campus

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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