



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and updates

A Resounding Success: Annual Conference Unites Delegates Nationwide for Education, Innovation, and Collaboration

The annual Vet Nurses and Technicians Conference was held at the St Lucia campus on 5-6 July. The conference was a great success, attracting approximately 120 delegates, including attendees from as far as Perth, Adelaide, Canberra and Melbourne. It proved to be an excellent forum for sharing ideas, advancing education, and fostering professional networking.



A total of 13 hours of AVNAT-approved education were delivered, complemented by 6 hours of RACE-approved training through the RECOVER BLS/ALS Rescuer workshop, which was held on the Friday prior to the main conference.

The exhibitors—including Hills, Boehringer Ingelheim, Provect, and AIRC—all expressed satisfaction with the event and have indicated their ongoing support for future conferences.

EMS Partners Appreciation Event

On Thursday 26 June the School invited EMS partners to campus for an opportunity to meet with the Head of School, students, and the EMS placements team. Just over 40 staff and partners attended. Nigel Perkins and Rod Verrall gave the introductory talks and were followed by three students from 3rd, 4th and 5th year describing the placement and the impact these had on their careers and lives.



Science beyond borders: The UQ School of Veterinary Science team present at the São Paulo School of Advanced Science in Precision Health - Building Bridges Between Veterinary and Human Medicine (ESPCA) in Brazil.

Professor Chiara Palmieri, Ticiana Brasil Ervedosa, Mifta Rizqina Amalia, Grace Mae Reeves, and Victor Alejandro Palma Jauregui presented at the ESPCA meeting, held from July 18-29, 2025, in Botucatu and São Paulo, Brazil.



Chiara Palmieri was invited to speak about the importance and challenges of developing animal cancer registries, comparative oncology focusing on urothelial tumours in dogs and humans, how environmental contaminants can play a role in neoplasm development, and an engaging talk about the role of women in science with a focus on gender inequalities.

Ticiana Brasil Ervedosa presented her DVClinSc research on canine prostate cancer, with a focus on evidence-based medicine and the application of evidence gap maps to map the gaps and strengths of prostate cancer research in dogs.

Victor Alejandro Palma Jauregui presented his project about the epidemiology and risk factors of feline and canine mammary tumours in Australia conducted during his

placement at UQ.

Mifta Rizqina Amalia presented her MPhil research focusing on the link between urban air pollutants and lung cancer in dogs.

Grace Mae Reeves presented her PhD research focusing on the prevalence of ticks and tick-borne pathogens in wild canids in South-East Queensland, Australia.

The event took place at São Paulo State University (UNESP) in Botucatu and at Albert Einstein Hospital in São Paulo, Brazil, and provided a connection to advanced research across various health-related fields, bringing together students from around the world, including Australia, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Portugal, UK, USA, Russia. The meeting was financially supported by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), and led by Professor Renée Laufer Amorim and a wonderful multidisciplinary team of student volunteers. We would like to express our appreciation to UNESP, FAPESP, and UQ for the opportunity to participate and contribute to a science without borders.

UQVETS Contributions to Bain Fallon 2025

UQVETS was well represented at The Equine Veterinarians of Australia Bain Fallon Memorial Lectures.

Dr Albert Sole Guitart (Equine Surgeon) is the group's president elect, and Dr Jordan Flood (Equine Medicine Resident) was elected EVA Young Member President. Dr Alex Young delivered a lecture on PET scanning, and Drs Allison Stewart (Equine Medicine) and Jordan Flood hosted a breakfast session on analgesics, which impressively included a spontaneous presentation amidst a power outage.



Several UQVETS members were recognised for their outstanding research contributions. Dr Evie Hodgson won the EVA Young Member Prize for her research abstract titled "Prolonged wireless measurement of intragastric PH and pharmacodynamics of extended-release injectable omeprazole in horses." Dr Shani Trypony received the EVA Research-Based Poster Prize for her work on "Development of an antibiogram and multidrug resistant bacteria in equine synovial infections." Shani is a 2025 UQ BVSc (Hons 1) graduate.

UQVETS also had strong representation in poster presentations. Fifth-year BVSc student Macada Roebig and equine medicine resident Dr. Xueli Wang presented research posters. Equine medicine residents Drs. Evie Hodgson, Jordan Flood, and Marthe Thirouin all contributed case-based posters, showcasing the depth and diversity of clinical expertise within the team.

Proud Moments for UQ SVS at ANZCVS Science Week

UQ School of Veterinary Science was strongly represented at the Australia and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) Science Week, held on the Gold Coast from 24–26 July. Attendees included Professor Rachel Allavena, Dr Viviana Gonzalez-Astudillo, Assoc. Prof. Wendy Goodwin, and Dr. Jenny Sinclair. Several undergraduate BVSc students were also in attendance.



ANZCVS Science Week brings together veterinarians from across Australia, New Zealand and beyond to share the latest research, clinical advances, and innovations in veterinary science. UQ SVS's strong presence at this year's conference highlights our School's commitment to be at the forefront of a variety of veterinary-related disciplines."

We're delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our residents in attaining prestigious ANZCVS credentials this year. Three of our residents successfully gained Membership to the College via examination: Evelyn Hodgson and Marthe Thirouin in Medicine of Horses, and Taylah Johnston in Veterinary Anaesthesia & Analgesia. Additionally, Shaun Pratt, who recently completed his DVClinSc candidature, was awarded Fellowship in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia. Both Taylah and Shaun had the honour of attending the Gala Awards Dinner to receive their testamurs in person. These achievements reflect the exceptional dedication of our team members and the quality of training provided through our residency/DVClinSc programs.

Note: Membership acknowledges advanced expertise and contribution to the profession and Fellowship represents specialist qualification recognition.

Australian Animal Pathology Standards Program roadshow

Pathologists and trainees at the School of Veterinary Science attended the Australian Animal Pathology Standards Program (AAPSP) roadshow hosted by Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory on June 9-10 featuring "Cardiovascular Pathology" presented by renowned author Gisela Martinez-Romero, from Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in Boston, USA. They participated in a 2-full day specialised training packed with theory, fantastic case discussions, and gross mock exams. The group's enthusiasm for cardiovascular pathology is exemplified in the photo, some attendees even attempting to illustrate multiple cardiac diseases with hand hearts.



Second Annual SVS Animal and Veterinary Science HDR Symposium

On June 5 we celebrated our amazing HDR students at our annual **SVS Animal and Veterinary Science HDR Symposium**. This event showcased outstanding innovation, rigorous research, and groundbreaking discoveries across four distinct themes. We received a total of 19 abstracts for the event, from HDR students across all three degrees: MPhil, DVClinSc, and PhD, from four schools/centres represented at Gatton Campus. Congratulations to all participants for their remarkable contributions!

A heartfelt thank you to the students and staff who formed the organizing committee and the SVS HDR Committee, whose dedication and hard work made this symposium a resounding success. Food and prizes were sponsored by the School of Veterinary Science. We are thrilled to announce the outstanding winners and runners-up in each of the four themes:

Theme 1: Companion Animals

- **Winner:** Jayne McGhie – Intramuscular temperature and behaviour change as early indicators of canine heat
- **Runner-up:** Joanne Smith – First Australian evaluation of mare and seasonal factors impacting ICSI

Theme 2: Production Animals

- **Winner:** Ella Watkins – Pawsitive pregnancy: Investigating detection dogs for cattle pregnancy diagnosis
- **Runner-up:** Harvey Santos – Immunogenicity and efficacy of an Australian whole-cell killed *T. foetus* vaccine in young bulls experimentally infected with *Trichostrongylus axei*

Theme 3: Veterinary Epidemiology and One Health

- **Winner:** Manavi Muralidhar – Challenges and opportunities for piggery wastewater metagenomic pathogen surveillance
- **Runner-up:** Jennifer Sullivan – The prospect of developing a herpesvirus vector vaccine for Australian flying foxes (*Pteropus* species) to reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases

Theme 4: Wildlife and Exotics

- **Winner:** Patricio Palacios – Chilling with saltwater crocodiles
- **Runner-up:** Shelly Butcher – Understanding emerging fungal diseases in wild Australian reptiles

We commend all presenters for their dedication and the immense effort they put into their work. Their contributions continue to push the boundaries of knowledge and inspire future research. Everybody had a great day, developing presentation skills, connections, and research culture!

Stay tuned for more updates, and we look forward to another year of groundbreaking discoveries at next year's symposium – see you in June 2026!

Science week ANZCVS Equine Chapter

The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) Equine Chapter held its annual Science Week from July 24-26, 2025 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event offers a multi-stream program with leading speakers presenting the latest scientific and clinical updates.



Invited lectures were presented by:

- Dr. Allison Stewart "Maternal Antibody Acquisition and Decline to Arboviruses and after Hendra vaccination"
- Dr. Sharon Jeung "Recent Advances in Standing Airway Surgery"
- Dr. Brianna Clark- presented her DVClinSci research as 2023 Bain Fallon chapter prize winner) "Update on tests used to diagnose insulin dysregulation in the field"
- Dr Steve Zedler "Laparoscopic Surgery of the Urogenital Tract"

Research abstracts presented by UQ Equine Medicine:

- Dr. Shani Trycony UQ Graduate 2025 "Antibiogram development and multiple drug resistant bacteria or equine synovial infections"
- Miss Macada Roebig (UQ fifth year BVSc(hons) student "Insect bite hypersensitivity- owner verses veterinarian disease severity scoring"
- Dr Xueli Wang (presented by Allison Stewart) "Orthoflavivirus infections in juvenile horses"
- Dr. Evie Hodgson third year equine medicine resident "Prolonged wireless measurement of intragastric pH in foals" Winner of best research abstract by a resident.

Congratulations to Drs Evie Hodgson and Marthe Thirouin both passed their examinations in Medicine of Horses and have earned their MANZCVS post nominals.

Photo: Evie Hodson wins Best Resident research presentation at the ANZCVS Equine Chapter

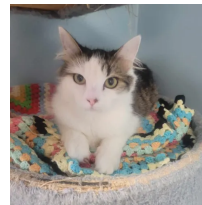
Welcome to our new staff members

SVS welcomed three new staff members in July:

- Associate Professor Joshua Aleri who commenced 1 July. Josh is a ruminant medicine and epidemiology researcher and teacher, who will deliver academic leadership for student work integrated learning.
- Our new School Manager, Ms Clare Schonfeld, who commenced on 14 July. Clare can be contacted via the SVS School Manager inbox.
- Our new Histology Scientist, Ms Bethany Bargh, who commenced in the Veterinary Laboratory Services on 21 July.

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 the CSC 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](#)

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

Accreditation site visit - September 7-12

Fantastic progress is being made with preparation for the Accreditation site visit. The AVMA Self Study Report print copies have arrived and are being distributed broadly through all areas of the school. Copies are being made available in shared areas. If you don't have your copy yet, please reach out to Rachel Allavena or to Kathy.

Electronic PDF copies are available on the Schools SharePoint [Accreditation](#) site.

The SVS Accreditation Teams Repository is **now live** for all staff. Everyone should have access to the Teams Repository - **look for the Centaur** in your Teams Channels!

We are making plans for *All Staff Town Halls* during August. Watch your calendar and we look forward to sharing a cuppa/scone or lunch with everyone at these Town Halls. We'll also begin to schedule meetings for those participating in each of the visit sessions – an opportunity for participants to ask questions, seek advice, or just familiarise with your colleagues in your session.

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.

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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