



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and updates

Successful Completion of 2025 International Accreditation Site Visit

The 2025 international accreditation site visit for the School of Veterinary Science finished on Friday 12 September with debrief meetings involving School and University leaders - following an intense week of activities on Gatton campus and visits to external sites where BVSc students are involved in work integrated learning (at RSPCA QLD and Logan Animal Management Centre).



Thank you to everyone for the huge effort that went into preparation – in particular Prof Rachel Allavena and Kathy Bachmann – for managing the complex process of compiling materials and for managing all of the general planning and logistics and for ensuring the week went smoothly.

Thanks also to everyone who engaged with the site visit team while they were here. The team made particular mention of how they enjoyed interacting with our staff, students and stakeholders and how well they were treated.

SVS Picnic: A Tail-Wagging Success!

On Tuesday 14 October, the biannual SVS picnic brought together students, staff, families—and for the first time ever, dogs! The canine guests stole the show, offering comfort and connection to students missing their own pets and sparking new friendships across cohorts.



Highlights of the evening included:

- Over 15 well-behaved dogs, from playful pups to what might've been the world's smallest Pug!
- Fabulous tunes spun by DJ Bryson, keeping the energy high all night.
- 250–300 students from every cohort—though we're hoping to see more BVTs next time!
- Staff, partners, and children joined in the fun, making it a true community celebration.

The dogs left no trace but plenty of smiles, and the event proved that a little wag can go a long way in bringing people together. Here's to more paws at future picnics!

Dancing Across Cultures at UQ Gatton!

The [Gatton International Students Association \(UQ-GISA\)](#) and the [School of Veterinary Science \(SVS\)](#) brought colour, rhythm, and flavour to campus with their lively "Dance and Eat" event on 23 September 2025.



Students from across the Gatton community came together to learn and celebrate cultural dances from around the world — swaying to the Cumbia from Colombia, grooving to the Tanko Bushi from Japan, moving to the Tortor Batak from Indonesia, and stepping to the beats of Zhu Gan Wu from China.

Laughter, music, and movement filled the room as participants embraced the spirit

of global connection and inclusivity. The celebration wrapped up with everyone enjoying delicious pizzas, generously supported by the School of Veterinary Science.

The “Dance and Eat” evening was more than just a fun event — it was a celebration of diversity, unity, and cultural exchange, perfectly capturing the vibrant international spirit of UQ Gatton.

Vet Ball 2025: A Night of Glamour, Gratitude, and Groove

Vet Ball 2025 was an incredible evening of celebration and glamour, shared with students and staff alike. The Vet Ball 2025 committee had so much fun organising this event, and are immensely proud of our team and all the behind the scenes people who helped us bring this event to life. After many hours of emailing, merch designing, and award spray painting, we are happy to say the event exceeded all of our expectations. The addition of a live band, courtesy of UQ Big Band, this year was a hit amongst attendees, playing popular jams that had even the lecturers up out of their chairs. Additionally, lines were out the door for the unique 360 degree video photobooth that was also added this year, and proved to be a wonderful keepsake for people to look back at and laugh about. Furthermore, a key component of the evening was the presentation of the staff awards, to recognise and thank all the wonderful people who make the university journey that much more enjoyable. We were delighted to be joined by so many of the incredible staff that night, and we hope that everyone had a great time, like we sure did. Organising Vet Ball 2025 was a wild and wonderful journey and we are so happy to have been a part of this spectacular night.



Congratulations to our 2025 Student Staff Award Recipients

The following were the staff awards for Vet Ball 2025. This year there were awards for both veterinary science and veterinary technology. The 'Golden Drip Award' was awarded to the cohort's favourite lecturer, and the 'Golden Dissection Kit Award' was awarded to the cohort's favourite tutor.

Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Year 1:

Golden Drip Award: Courtney Stewart

Golden Dissection Kit Award : Rod Verrall

Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Year 2:

Golden Drip Award: Michael Noad

Golden Dissection Kit Award: Tatum Attias

Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Year 3:

Golden Drip Award: Elisa Dennis

Golden Dissection Kit Award: Courtney Stewart

Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Year 4:

Golden Drip Award: José Granados

Golden Dissection Kit Award: Courtney Stewart

Bachelor of Veterinary Technology, Year 1:

Golden Drip Award: Suresh Krishnasamy

Golden Dissection Kit Award: Jemma Restall

Bachelor of Veterinary Technology, Year 2:

Golden Drip Award: Malcolm Jones

Golden Dissection Kit Award: Jackson Upton

SVS HDR Students attend International Bat Research Conference

SVS was well represented at the International Bat Research Conference held in Cairns on 3-8 August, with three PhD students presenting their work on Australian bat lyssavirus (Alison Hoeger) and flying fox retrovirus (Jess Mitchell and Martia Tacharina). Ali, Martia and Jess had a wonderful time meeting other



researchers who are passionate about bat health and conservation – animals that play a crucial ecological role but are often maligned in the media. The conference gave the students a morale boost, a networking opportunity and technical advice on adapting reagents and techniques to bat research.

Photo: Martia Tacharina and Jess Mitchell with fellow conference attendee

Bob Doneley leads Exotic Pet Masterclass and speaks at MVMA Conference

Bob Doneley recently returned from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he was an invited plenary speaker at the 35th annual conference of the Malaysian Veterinary Medical Association. In line with the conference theme, the future directions of the veterinary profession in South East Asia, he gave a presentation on "The Evolution and Future Directions of the Exotic Pet Practices". He also gave a 13 lecture Masterclass on Exotic Pet Medicine (photos attached), and a conference presentation on Avian Radiology.



Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation Visits Gatton Campus

On 15 August Prof Sue Harrison, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) toured the UQ Gatton facilities, including the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. While on campus she attended an informal lunch with SVS HDR students.



Courtney Stewart Champions Practical Learning in Veterinary Science

In her current role as Livestock Practical Coordinator and veterinary nurse in the School of Veterinary Science, Courtney Stewart teaches technical and clinical skills and knowledge relevant to animal handling, husbandry, reproduction, clinical treatment and care of production animals to both BVSc and BVet Tech students. Her skills contribute to the delivery of production animal lectures, practicals, tutorials and workshops within approximately 7 undergraduate courses.



Courtney's teaching goal is to develop every student, particularly individual skill sets, confidence and ability to provide treatment and care to production animals. This will in turn benefit those rural sectors, depleted of professional veterinary support.

Courtney believes effective production animal teaching requires personal passion and creation of student belonging (safety), to facilitate improved learning and understanding. She endeavours to create teaching environments that are positive, safe and have an abundance of enthusiasm for the subject/ skill being taught. Courtney believes that learning can be influenced by teaching students with passion, driving students to learn efficiently and motivating students to pay more attention when learning. This has been identified in student SECat feedback such as, "*Courtney's passion when teaching is infectious and has made me rethink about a career in production animals*".

Molecular Animal Reproductive Biology Lab Publication Success

The Molecular Animal Reproductive Biology Lab, led by Taylor Pini, has published 4 papers this month, focusing on molecular changes in sperm during freezing (<https://doi.org/10.1530/REP-25-0008>), how sperm alters the cervix transcriptome (<https://doi.org/10.1530/REP-25-0240>), functionality of segmentation in the koala prostate gland (<https://doi.org/10.1093/biolre/ioaf209>) and epididymal sperm maturation in kangaroos (<https://doi.org/10.1093/biolre/ioaf160>).

Community Science in Action: Dr Gonzalez Partners with Frog Safe Inc. to Investigate Frog Tumours

Dr Viviana Gonzalez was recently interviewed by several local and national news outlets, including ABC News, about her latest project in partnership with Frog Safe Inc. The project aims to investigate the cause - or causes - of tumours appearing in frogs across North Queensland.

Viviana's goal is to raise awareness within the North Queensland community and encourage residents to report frogs with unusual lumps or bumps on their bodies. Community involvement is vital to help collect cases that will provide the scientific

evidence needed to better understand and protect local frog populations. Two of her recent interviews can be viewed here: [ABC News](#), [ABC Radio](#)

Returning to roots: Anthony's 46-year UQ Gatton journey

Former SVS HDR student Anthony Mowbray Feez is featured in a recent UQ news article. Anthony started as an undergraduate at Queensland Agricultural College in 1979 and then returned to UQ Gatton as a mature age student to undertake an MPhil at SVS, supervised by Swaid Abdullah.



[Read more](#)

Looking for Love? Meet our Adorable Cats Ready for Adoption

The Clinical Studies Centre presently has six 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



Photo: Nero, one of our cats who is available for adoption.

Join Our Study: How Different Dog Diets Affect Blood Sugar and Health

Do you have a healthy adult dog aged 2–7 years?

We invite you and your furry companion to take part in our exciting research project at The University of Queensland!

What's the Project About?

We are investigating how different diets (kibble vs. wholefood) affect blood sugar control, general health, and gut bacteria in dogs. Your participation will help us better understand how diet choices can support dogs' lifelong health.

What's Involved?

Health Assessments and Blood Testing:

Your dog will receive a free health check by a veterinarian, including a physical examination and blood tests to confirm your dog's health before starting the study. Additional blood samples will be collected at specific times during the study to monitor health and measure markers related to diet and metabolism.

Diet Trial:

Your dog will receive high-quality, complete and balanced diets (Lyka Chicken Bowl and Hills Adult Healthy Mobility Chicken Meal, Brown Rice & Barley Recipe Dog Food) at no cost for the 12-week study period.

Blood Sugar Monitoring:

Your dog will wear a small glucose sensor (CGM) for two short periods during the study to monitor blood sugar trends without repeated blood tests.

Activity Tracking:

Your dog will wear an activity tracker collar to help us monitor daily movement and wellness.

Faecal Sampling:

You will collect faecal samples at home using a simple kit at specific time points (weeks 0, 4, 6, 10, and 12).

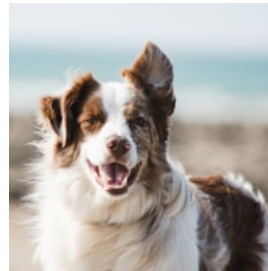
Owner Log:

We will ask you to keep a simple daily log of your dog's feeding, activity, and any health or behaviour changes during the study.

Why Participate?

🐾 **Contribute to Science:** Help advance research to improve diet recommendations for dogs.

🐾 **Health Monitoring:** Your dog will receive free health checks and laboratory testing (valued at ~\$300) to ensure eligibility.



🐾 **Free Premium Food:** Your dog will receive free, high-quality diets during the 12-week study period. As a thank-you for completing the study, you'll also receive a Lyka meals discount voucher at the end of the trial.

🐾 **Stay Informed:** Receive updates on your dog's progress throughout the study.

Ethics & Confidentiality:

Rest assured, your dog's welfare is our utmost priority. We adhere to strict ethical guidelines, and all data collected will be kept confidential to protect your privacy and that of your pet. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time.

How to Get Involved:

For any inquiries or to join our research project, please feel free to contact the research team at dog.diets@uq.edu.au

Help us learn more about keeping our canine companions healthy and happy for years to come!

Upcoming events and opportunities

Orientation for Academics New to UQ - Virtual Offering

The [Orientation for Academics New to UQ](#) session scheduled on 20 October 2025 session targets academics who have started their first fixed-term or continuing role with UQ in the last 6 months. This event compliments other formal and informal induction activities for new academics and aims to provide academics with information on the tools and systems that exist to support them in their role at UQ.

Those staff who have been unable to attend previously due to their physical location are also encouraged to attend.

SVS Work and Wellness Day

📅 Thursday 6 November
📍 Porters Plainland Hotel

Preparations are underway for our annual Work & Wellness day on Thursday, November 6 and we need your help with an activity! We're hoping to run some fun SVS-oriented trivia in the afternoon, so please think of some imaginative, challenging and maybe even cheeky questions about your colleagues, UQ and SVS. Please forward your questions to [Taylor Pini](#) as you think of them.

Thanks in advance for your input, and we look forward to a fun and engaging day as a school.

Teaching and Learning Week

Teaching and Learning Week 2025 will take place from Monday 3 to Friday 7 November, featuring a combination of online, in-person, and hybrid sessions.

Registrations are now open and we would like to invite you to explore the program and [secure your spot](#).

The week provides a platform for UQ staff to share and highlight effective teaching tools, techniques, and strategies to enhance student learning.

The theme for this year is 'Elevate' with the following 3 thematic focus areas:

- student success
- teachers and career development
- innovation.

Opening event

[Professor Tracey Bunda](#) will deliver the opening address which will be followed by the Indigenising Curriculum Showcase that will highlight examples from across UQ where educators are embedding Indigenous knowledges and perspectives at the activity and course level.

Date: Monday 3 November 2025

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

Venue: ModWest 11a – 120 and 121, UQ St Lucia Campus

You can find more details about the program and register to attend via the [Teaching and Learning Week website](#).

Please share this with your teams and colleagues and encourage them to take part in Teaching and Learning Week.

UQ Thanks You event 2025

 Thursday 27 November
 12-3pm
 Gymnasium UQ Gatton



UQ Thanks You events are open to all UQ staff – continuing, fixed-term and casual.

Register: [UQ Thanks You](#)

Gatton Campus End of Year Lunch

Please save the date for our annual All Staff End-of-Year Lunch - a chance to celebrate the year and connect with colleagues.

 Thursday 4 December 2025
 12:00pm – 1:30pm
 Level 2, NW Briton Building (8101)
Cost: To be confirmed

Please [register](#) by close COB Thursday 27 November.



RSVP: [Gatton EOY Lunch](#)

Celebrating SVS Staff@Christmas

Join us for the 2025 Celebrating SVS Staff@Christmas event!

 Wednesday 10 December, 12:30pm
 Gatton campus Dining Hall

RSVP and dietary requirements deadline is **Friday 28 November**.

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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