From September 2017, students at CityU’s School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) who have dreamed all their life of becoming a veterinarian will discover the huge variety of jobs on offer for suitably qualified and well-trained veterinary professionals.

**Local training, international standards**

“Our new bachelor’s degree in veterinary medicine [BVM] will expand the educational choices and career paths open to our youth,” said Professor Way Kuo, CityU President. “It will prepare them for diverse careers, including training to care for companion animals and for working with large animals such as horses and cattle as well as for work in biomedical research, food safety and food production, academia, government and policy.”

The BVM degree at CityU’s SVM also means that aspiring vets will no longer have to travel overseas for their veterinary training. It is estimated that around 200 young people from Hong Kong are training in other countries at any one time to qualify as a vet. Now, they can stay in Hong Kong and take advantage of what promises to be one of the most versatile, international, academically challenging and locally relevant degrees in town.

“The new programme is going to re-shape our relationship with animals in this city. It has taken CityU eight years to establish this programme, and we hope that our contribution will lead Hong Kong to become a centre for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, create new career paths for Hong Kong’s youth, improve animal welfare and enhance the well-being of our natural living environment,” Professor Kuo said.

The vision for developing a centre of excellence in veterinary education at CityU was first initiated by Professor Kuo and the senior management in July 2008 when Dr Chung Shui-ming was then the Chairman of the University Council.

A long-term strategic partnership was established with the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at Cornell University, one of the world’s top-ranked veterinary schools, in 2009 to develop this ground-breaking...
initiative. This led to the establishment of SVM in 2014. Cornell has played a major role in assisting CityU by contributing to curriculum design as well as the accreditation process.

**International collaboration**
Over the past few years Professor Michael Kotlikoff, Provost of Cornell University and a veterinarian and biomedical researcher by training, and Professor Lorin Warnick, Dean of CVM and an expert in Salmonella infections and antimicrobial resistance of enteric bacteria among domestic animals and humans, have visited CityU many times to assist in the establishment of the SVM and the new BVM degree.

“What attracted us to working with CityU was the evident passion and commitment among the management, faculty, alumni and students for veterinary medicine,” said Professor Kotlikoff.

At an institutional level, he said, Cornell’s mission to have an impact on societal and global problems resonated with CityU’s aspirations to pursue professional education and research that had a direct bearing on society. “We were also impressed by CityU’s outstanding strengths in engineering and life sciences, and the aspiration to build capacity,” said Professor Kotlikoff, who was the CVM’s Dean from 2007 to 2015 before accepting the job of Provost.

In addition, Cornell’s CVM wanted to share its knowledge and experience in a region of the world where issues such as zoonotic diseases, sustainable food production, food safety, environmental health and animal welfare were crucial to economic and societal development.
State-of-the-art training
What Cornell also brings to the endeavour is the latest thinking in veterinarian training.

“We greatly encourage a movement away from traditional lecture-based classroom experience to more active and experiential learning initiatives,” said Professor Warnick.

Case studies are regarded as springboards into the many different areas of veterinary medicine, from biology and zoology to statistics.

“We use case studies, which could be respiratory disease in a horse, for instance, to motivate and provide context for learning basic sciences,” said Professor Warnick, who teaches herd health, population medicine and health economics in pre-clinical courses.

Facilities and casework
Real-life case studies will also form the core of the training at CityU on the BVM. CityU has acquired full ownership of the Peace Avenue Veterinary Clinic, a leading veterinary clinic. It will be used as a small animal teaching hospital. Students will have the opportunity to undertake internships, residencies and research projects at this hospital, which is the biggest in Hong Kong with the greatest number of veterinary specialists onsite, and equipped with a wide array of advanced medical equipment. The hospital is already a commercially viable enterprise offering students immediate access to a large portfolio of clinical cases.

The veterinary diagnostic laboratory located on campus will also be an on-going commercial concern, offering students a suite of training opportunities in diagnostic sciences.

“Our students will have immediate access to state-of-the-art training facilities and genuine casework under the supervision of Hong Kong’s top veterinary specialists,” said Professor Michael Reichel, Dean of SVM, who was recently awarded a Fellowship by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (London) for his work on selected infectious causes of reproductive failures in cattle. The Fellowship is awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions to the veterinary profession in terms of learning and teaching.

“Our facilities and resources are a vital part of the training for veterinary medicine and will enable graduates to work in a full range of environments in Hong Kong, the region and in other parts of the world,” said Professor Reichel, who is recognised as a specialist in veterinary public health in Hong Kong (Veterinary Public Health/Food Hygiene and Population Medicine), Australia and New Zealand as well as in Europe and the UK.
Students will also have access to land-based farm and fish farm facilities in the New Territories.

“Aquaculture is an especially exciting area right now,” said Professor Reichel. Farmed fish is the fastest growing food-producing sector, and now accounts for nearly 50 percent of the world’s food fish.

For the love of animals
So what kinds of people are going to be interested in training as a veterinarian? CityU has already helped several local secondary school students to sample college life as a vet school student. Thanks to scholarships provided by CityU supporters, the students took classes at Cornell’s summer school.

What did they have in common? A love of animals, of course, but also a keen sense that science is the way to solve many of today’s public health and food safety problems, all of which are closely related to animal welfare, and, more specifically, the relationship between humans and animals.

“We have to recognise that humans, animals and the environment in general are inextricably linked and many of the answers to questions about sustainability and public health require an understanding of animal health and welfare,” said Professor Kotlikoff.

One Health, one world
This point is echoed by Professor Kuo, who talks passionately about the concept of One Health, the movement aimed at creating an inclusive relationship between medical doctors and veterinarians in recognition of the interdependency between humans and animals.

“CityU is breaking new ground by creating a wholly unique degree for Hong Kong, one that will contribute significantly to One Health,” he said. “The human, veterinary and environmental research capabilities can create a healthier planet, and our aspiration is that Hong Kong leads from the front and that this city will make an international name for itself in veterinary medicine.”

Aquaculture is a fast-growing sector in the food industry.

There will be an equine hospital attached to a riding school.

Our small animal teaching hospital will enhance our students’ learning and training.
破性構想，城大2009年與世界頂尖的美國康奈爾大學動物醫學院建立長期戰略合作夥伴關係，並於2014年成立了城大動物醫學院。在課程設計和申請認證的過程中，康奈爾大學都扮演關鍵角色。

國際合作
過去幾年，康奈爾大學學務副校長兼獸醫和生物醫學研究員Michael Kotlikoff教授，以及該大學動物醫學院院長兼沙門氏菌感染及人畜腸道細菌耐藥性專家Lorin Warnick教授多次造訪城大，協助大學成立動物醫學院和開設獸醫學學士課程。

Kotlikoff教授說：「吸引我們與城大合作的主因，是城大管理層、教員、校友以及學生對獸醫學的熱情和投入。」他表示在大學層面，康奈爾大學的使命是致力解決社會和全球問題，這與城大以專業教育和研究服務社會的理念不謀而合。

Kotlikoff教授說：「城大在工程學和生命科學方面的顯著優勢及其積極進取的態度，也給我們留下深刻印象。」他在接任康奈爾大學學務副校長之前，從2007年至2015年擔任該校動物醫學院院長。

此外，人畜共患傳染病、可持續的食品生產、食品安全、環境健康以及動物福利等問題對本地區的經濟及社會發展至關重要，康奈爾大學動物醫學院也想就這些問題分享其知識和經驗。
先進訓練
康奈爾大學還給城大帶來獸醫培訓方面的最新理念。Warnick教授
說：「我們主張把傳統的課堂授課，轉變為更積極的體驗式學習。」
從生物學、動物學到統計學，採用案例教學是進入獸醫學不同領
域的跳板。他續說：「我們運用案例（比如馬的呼吸系統疾病），提
供實際情況以鼓勵學生學習基礎科學。」Warnick教授講授獸群健
康、群體醫學以及健康經濟學等臨床前課程。

設施與實例教學
實例教學也將是城大獸醫學課程的核心。城大已全權擁有太平道寵
物診所，將作為小型動物教學醫院，學生有機會在此處參與實習、
專科訓練和研究。這所醫院在本地業界具領導地位，配備一系列先
進的醫療設備，目前在香港同類醫院中規模最大，獸醫專家最多，
是獨立運營的企業，可為學生提供多種臨床病例訓練。位於校園內
的動物診斷化驗所將是一間自行運作的商業公司，為學生提供一系
列有關診斷科學的培訓機會。

城大動物醫學院院長Michael Reichel教授說：「我們的學生將在
香港一流的獸醫專家指導下，使用先進的培訓設施，研究真實案
例。」Reichel教授最近因對牛繁殖失敗的特定傳染性原因之一研究，
獲頒英國皇家獸醫學院榮譽學習貢獻院士，該院士頭銜頒予在教學
方面貢獻卓著的獸醫專業人員。

Reichel教授說：「我們的設施和資源是獸醫學培訓的重要部分，有
助畢業生在香港、亞洲區以至世界各地不同環境中工作。」他是香
港（動物醫學公共衛生/食物衛生和群體醫學）、澳洲、紐西蘭以至
歐洲和英國認可的動物醫學公共衛生專家。

學生將有機會使用位於新界的農場和水產養殖設施。Reichel教授
說：「水產養殖是一個特別令人興奮的領域。」養殖魚類是食品生
產業中增長最快的領域，目前佔世界食用魚總量近50%。

愛護動物
甚麼人有興趣當獸醫呢？目前，城大已協助本地幾所中學有興趣
當獸醫的學生體驗了獸醫的學習生活。這些學生獲得由城大支持
者捐助的獎學金資助，參加了康奈爾大學的暑期課程。

這些學生有甚麼共同點？當然，他們都喜愛動物；同時他們深深
明白，當今許多公共衛生和食品安全問題，必須借助科學解決；
而這些問題都與動物福利——尤其是人類與動物之間的關係——密
切相關。

Kotlikoff教授說：「我們必須明白，人類、動物和環境是密不可分
的。可持續發展和公共衛生問題的解決方案，都取決於人們對動
物健康和福利的理解。」

健康一元化
郭教授對此深表贊同。他大力推介「健康一元化」，該概念旨在促
進醫生與獸醫相互合作的關係，宣揚人與動物和諧共生。

他說：「城大創設的獨特學位課程，為香港開拓了一片新天地，
為『健康一元化』作出貢獻。人類、動物醫學和環境的研究能令地
球更健康，我們的願景就是希望香港能引領這一潮流，成為國際
動物醫學重鎮。」◆

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