UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE *of*

VETERINARY MEDICINE

MAGAZINE



{ Spring 2025 }

COMPLETING THE PUZZLE

How VCBO designed the new Veterinary Medical Education Building

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College of Veterinary Medicine
UtahStateUniversity

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On the cover: Michael Bishop, LouLou Neff, Felicity Lambert. Photography by Levi Sim.

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DEAN'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the Spring 2025 issue of the Utah State University College of Veterinary Medicine Magazine, which marks an exciting and important time of transition for the CVM. Last August, we welcomed the final cohort of 29 veterinary students in our "2 + 2" partnership with the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University and the broader Washington – Idaho – Montana – Utah (WIMU) Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine. Those students will graduate in 2028, so we remain committed to working with our wonderful WIMU partners through then, at which time our participation in the regional program will sunset. At the same time, we continue working diligently to establish our new 4-year veterinary program that was approved by the Utah Legislature in 2022 with the goal of admitting our inaugural class of students this fall. To that end, we currently have four primary areas of focus:

1. **Pursuit of accreditation through the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education.**
2. **Construction of a new Veterinary Medical Education (VME) Building on the Logan campus for academic instruction in the first three years of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program.**
3. **Hiring additional faculty and staff members needed for delivery of the 4-year program.**
4. **Recruitment of community-based private veterinary practices that will provide clinical training to our students during the final year of their education.**

This issue's cover story, "Completing the Puzzle," describes how the team at Salt Lake City-based VCBO Architecture designed the new VME Building and is now overseeing its construction, which is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2026.

With the completion of the VME Building still over a year away and with the college adding new faculty and staff members, identifying temporary space for this growth has been challenging to say the least. Fortunately, temporary space became available last fall in the 1920s-era Veterinary Science Building, so we relocated several of our college administrative offices (including mine) to this location in December. As its name suggests, the Veterinary Science Building was the longtime home for the USU veterinary science program (i.e., the forerunner of the college), and as such, it is very fitting that we have come "home" to this location, albeit on a temporary basis until we move into the VME Building. You can read more of my reflection about this "homecoming" to the Veterinary Science Building on page 2.

Having mentioned the transition from the 2 + 2 WIMU program to the new 4-year program, I would like to acknowledge some of the USU veterinarians whose dedicated efforts from the 1950s through the early 2000s laid the groundwork for where we are today. That group of faculty members includes Dr. Clell V. Bagley, Dr. Joseph T. Blake (deceased), Dr. Jay W. Call, Dr. Mark C. Healey (deceased), Dr. Merthyr (Merth) L. Miner (deceased), Dr. James L. Schupe (deceased), Dr. Ross A. Smart (deceased), Dr. Don W. Thomas (deceased), Dr. James A. Thomas (deceased), Dr. Kent R. Van Kampen, and Dr. Stanley D. Allen, who passed away last September (see memorial on page 18). Although I never had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Allen, many of my colleagues who did have shared with me their fondness and sincere appreciation of Dr. Allen both as a colleague and friend. As you will read in the memorial tribute, with full support from Dr. Allen's family, we have launched an effort to establish a veterinary student scholarship honoring Dr. Allen for his extensive contributions at USU that helped pave the way for the establishment of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this issue of the CVM Magazine, and on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students in the USU CVM, thank you for your interest and support of our program.

Sincerely,

DIRK K. VANDERWALL, DVM, PhD, DACT
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

CVM Administrative Offices

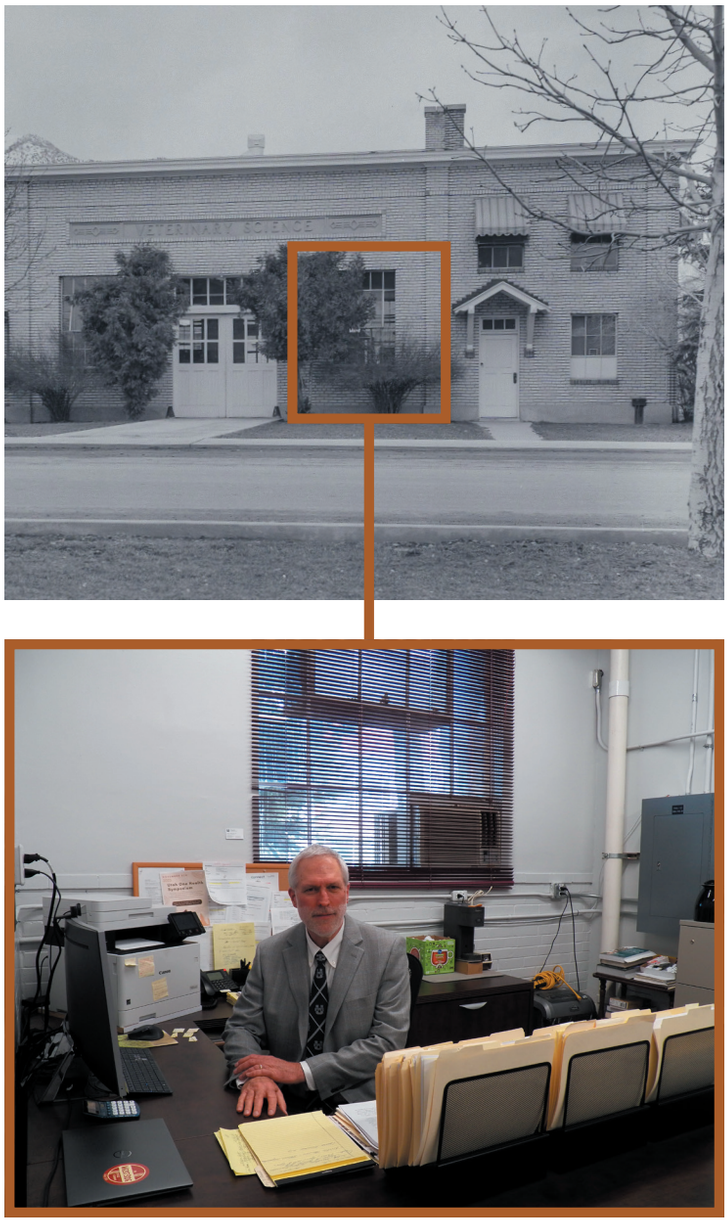
Come 'Home' to the Veterinary Science Building

As I noted in my welcome message, last fall several of our CVM administrative offices moved into the 1920s era Veterinary Science Building (VSB), which was the long-time home of the veterinary science program at USU. My office was part of that move, so I have taken great pleasure in reflecting on the fact that the CVM has come "home" to this location given that the veterinary science program, and the associated faculty and staff who worked in this building, laid the groundwork for establishment of the new CVM. We will remain in this historical location until the new Veterinary Medical Education Building (VME) is completed next summer.

As retired USU Extension Veterinarian, Dr. Clell Bagley, noted in his book, *Veterinary Sciences at Utah State University 1890 to 2007*, buildings associated with the veterinary science program date to the earliest days after the founding of the Utah Agricultural College in 1888. The original buildings associated with the veterinary science program are now gone. However, very fittingly, the 1920s era VSB has, after a 30-year hiatus, once again become the home (albeit on a temporary basis) of the current USU veterinary program, the new College of Veterinary Medicine. As Dr. Bagley noted in his book, the main structure of the VSB was constructed in 1927 as the Veterinary Clinic Building. Subsequently, in the 1930s an addition was added on the north end of the building, which seems to correspond with renaming as the VSB. One of the primary roles of the expanded VSB was serving as the location for the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory until the laboratory moved to its current location in the Ross A. Smart Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory that was completed and dedicated in 1994.

During its use for veterinary diagnostic activities, the central area of the building was a large open space that served as the necropsy (i.e., postmortem examination room) … and I am writing this article in my office in what is now a remodeled area of the necropsy room! Although the area has been completely reconfigured into individual offices, telltale signs of its former use are clearly evident in the 14.5-foot-high ceilings that were needed to accommodate moving and hoisting large animals during necropsy procedures. Given the long history of this building, and the instrumental role it has played serving the USU veterinary science program, I feel right at home and can't think of a better place for us to be until the VME is completed next year. ●

By: Dirk Vanderwall



Acknowledgements

Veterinary Sciences at Utah State University, 1890 to 2007, Clell V. Bagley, Utah State University, Cooperative Extension, 2007.

I extend sincere appreciation to Daniel Davis, Kelly Rovegno, and Sandra Weingart of USU Libraries for their assistance collecting historical photos and information.

Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

MYSTERY CASE

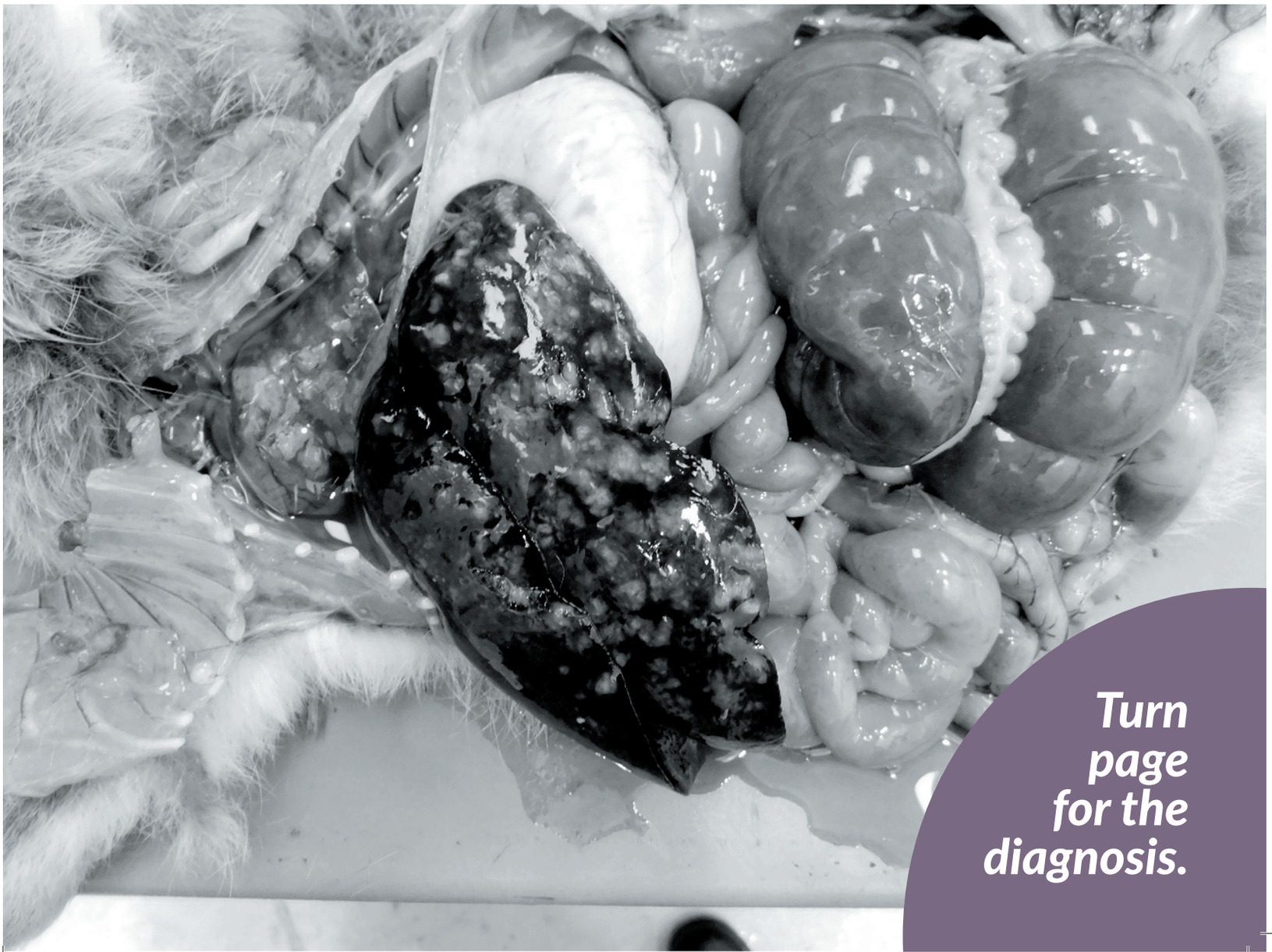
RABBIT NECROPSY

By E. Jane Kelly, DVM, MS, MPH, DACVPM, DACVM

This case is loosely based on a case that has been received at the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Spanish Fork.

A young male New Zealand rabbit (10-12 weeks old) was submitted for necropsy. It was part of a colony of approximately 75 rabbits raised to feed to snakes. Fifteen young animals had died in the previous 2 weeks, one adult rabbit died as well, and a 3-week-old rabbit also died the day before. The owner reported that he had not seen any nasal discharge or diarrhea; however, there had been significant muscle wasting in affected rabbits and some bloating noted. The young rabbit that was necropsied was in poor body condition and had significant lesions in the liver: the liver was enlarged with numerous white to tan variably sized firm lesions throughout (see below). On cut surface, a thick bright yellow liquid oozed from the lesions. Formulate your differential diagnosis and find the answer on the next page. ●



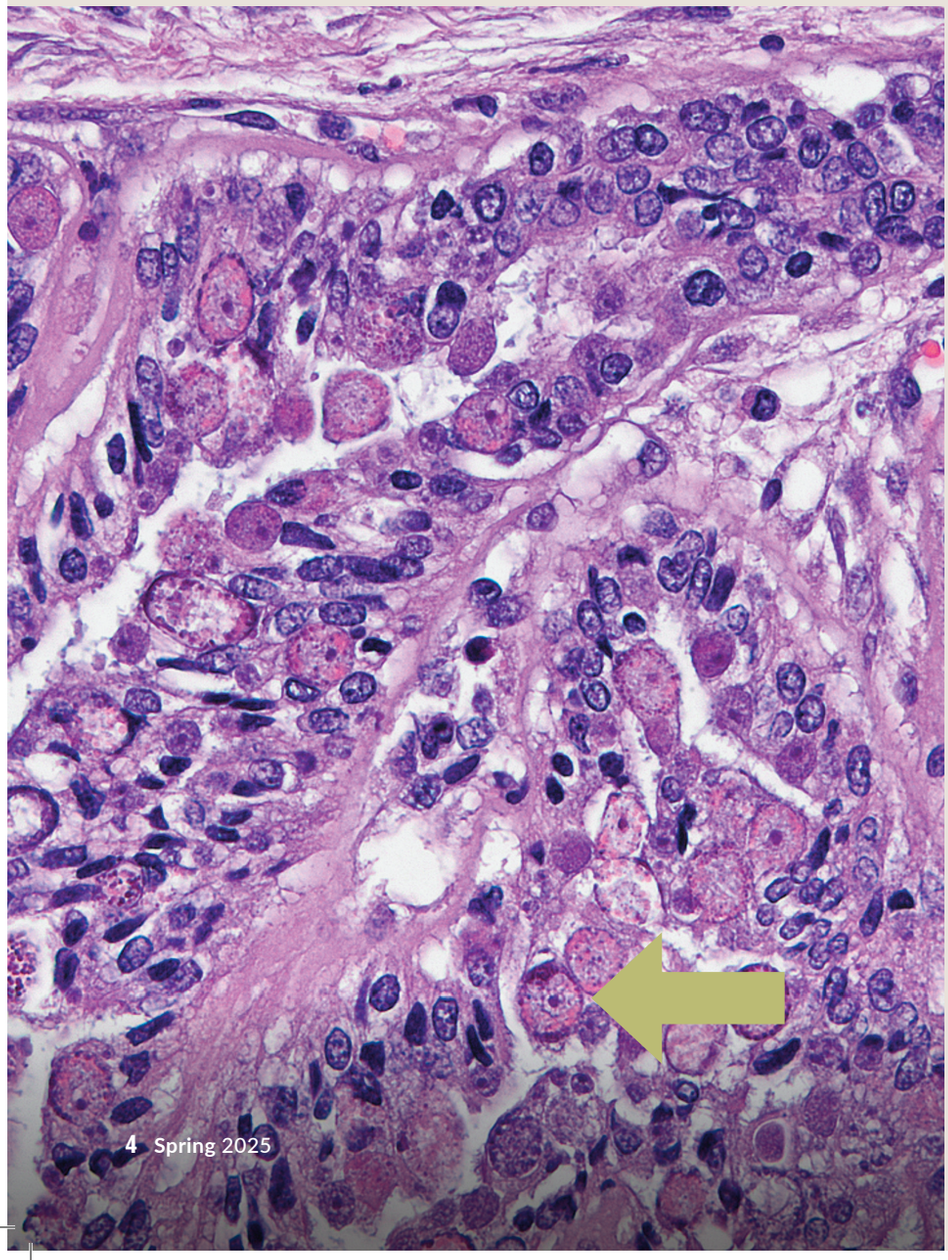


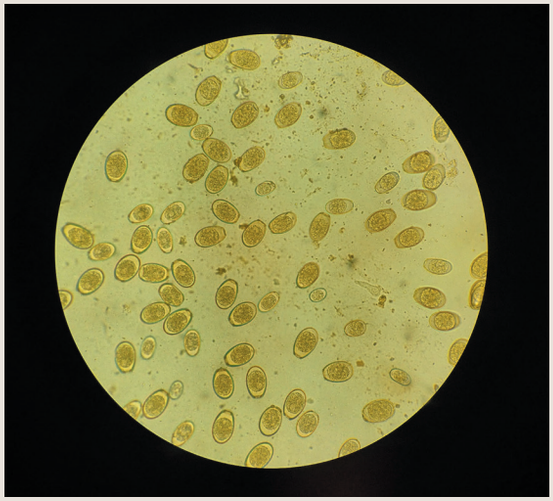
Turn page for the diagnosis.

MYSTERY CASE DIAGNOSED

There are several infections that come to mind when considering a rabbit with liver lesions such as these. My initial concern was tularemia (even though the lesions were not classic) because of the high mortality and the fact that rabbits are well known as reservoirs of this pathogenic zoonotic infection. Tularemia is caused by the Gram-negative coccobacillus *Francisella tularensis* that causes septicemia, and the disease has a worldwide distribution. At the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, we have recently necropsied several beavers with tularemia, and they had the classic lesions: disseminated 1 to 3 mm foci in the spleen, liver, and lung corresponding to foci of fibrinosuppurative inflammation. Another possible cause of the lesions was Salmonellosis, though, again, this was an unusual presentation. The lesions seen in the liver of this rabbit are almost pathognomonic for hepatic coccidiosis and this is the diagnosis in this case.

Hepatic coccidiosis in rabbits is caused by *Eimeria stiedae*. *Eimeria stiedae* causes proliferation of bile duct epithelial cells resulting in the multifocal yellow to grey lesions seen grossly. Histologically, there were lesions of chronic cholangitis with intralesional gametocytes, schizonts, and oocysts consistent with *Eimeria stiedae* (see arrow below).





In this case, there were also numerous intraluminal oocysts consistent with *Eimeria* spp. A fecal egg count was performed and 227,100 oocysts per gram were counted (a large number!). As can be seen above, several different species of Eimeria were seen and this is not unusual in rabbits. Eleven different species of Eimeria have been identified in rabbits, ten of which colonize the intestinal tract and one (*E. stiedae*) that infects the biliary ducts of the liver (Oliveira et al.). This young rabbit had at least 3 species of coccidia.

The death of this young rabbit was attributed to severe hepatitis associated with coccidia and a secondary bacterial infection (*E. coli*). Lesions of tularemia were not present. There have been reports of joint infections in rabbits in which the lesions of tularemia were masked by hepatic coccidiosis (Kim et al.) and, therefore, all rabbits (particularly wild rabbits) submitted for necropsy should be considered as potentially infected with tularemia. Hepatic coccidiosis is an important cause of mortality in commercial rabbitries with weanling rabbits being the most commonly affected.

Even though coccidia tend to be species specific, it is not recommended to feed sick rabbits to snakes because of the secondary bacterial infections that may infect the snake. In this case, a program of treatment for coccidia was initiated at the rabbitry and strict cleaning and disinfection. ●

References:

1. Kim DY, et al. Rabbit tularemia and hepatic coccidiosis in wild rabbit. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Vol 16, No. 12, December 2010: 2016-2017.
2. Oliveira UC, et al. Development of molecular assays for the identification of the 11 *Eimeria* species of the domestic rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus). *Veterinary Parasitology*, 176 (2011) 275-280.

Reka's Last Gift



The loss of a pet hits hard. From snuggles and games to mischief and mayhem, pets fill the small spaces of each day with love and happiness. After they're gone, our lives are that much emptier.

When Mark, Debra, and Jake Hoyt had to say goodbye to their German shepherd, Reka (pronounced Ree-kah), they lost a companion who had been with them for nearly a decade. She was the sort of dog that always wanted to be a part of the action, yet now she didn't have a role in it at all. But then Mark had an idea: donating Reka to the College of Veterinary Medicine's willed body program. The decision offered the Hoyts a sense of closure for their beloved pet, and because of their generosity, veterinary medicine students at Utah State University will be better prepared to provide life-saving care to other animals.

The Hoyts have long been a dog family, but Reka wasn't the most likely candidate for them to adopt. While Mark has a fondness for German shepherds, he'd had male dogs for most of his life, and he hoped to get another one. But that preference didn't hold up against Reka.

"We'd been looking at puppies and rescues for a while," recalled Mark. "I was cooking dinner one night while Debra was looking at dogs on the computer, and she called out to show me this cute little German shepherd in Springville. I walked over, and I just knew that was our dog. Debra looked at me a little awkwardly and explained the puppy was female, but I repeated that she was our dog and we had to get her now, so we made the call, scrambled around the house to find the cash, set dinner down, and took off to get her. We didn't even have dog food or bowls at the time, so we had to stop at Walmart on the way home and carry Reka with us through the store."

Because the Hoyts had expected to get a male dog, they had no names ready for their new puppy. They were brainstorming ideas on the drive down when Debra came across a different spelling of Reka while browsing on her phone. The name has German roots and means powerful protector, and Reka soon lived up to her name.

"She definitely was very protective of us," Debra said, "and she loved people. Everybody was a potential friend and ear scratcher, although she didn't like other dogs so much. But she was a great people person and was just sassy and fun. She talked back to you."

"Reka would steal anything she could," said Debra and Mark's son, Jake. "A sock, a shirt, a pillow. If you left it out, she would steal it. She hated being home because she felt like she was being left out of things, and she always wanted to know what was going on. That's why she would take things and throw them around the house to show her displeasure for being left home alone."

"It wasn't separation anxiety," Debra added. "She was just mad she didn't get to go with us."

"And when she wasn't going somewhere," said Jake, "her favorite place was my room because it faces the main streets of our neighborhood. She loved to sit on the bed and just see what was going on throughout the neighborhood."

"She had to be in the mix and in charge," Mark said. "Reka was a princess in the best and kindest way possible: dainty, elegant, friends with every human, and always loving being with her people."

Reka's decline began in 2023. She was as eager to play outside as ever, but Debra noticed that her hind legs weren't as strong as they had been, and by June, she had a limp in her left front leg. An initial trip to a veterinarian pointed to arthritis and hip dysplasia as the culprits, but by July, the situation had worsened. The Hoyts took Reka to a specialist in Layton who was willing to see Reka despite the Fourth of July holiday.

At first, the Hoyts worried that Reka might have degenerative myelopathy, a

condition similar to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in humans. Their first German shepherd had developed the neurological disease, and the creeping paralysis it caused ultimately required putting him to sleep. However, an MRI revealed that Reka instead had neuromuscular degeneration, and she was put on medication to manage her symptoms. While she didn't recover to her past level of health, she bounced back enough to go on light walks and enjoy her daily life.

This continued until late November 2023, when she again went into decline. Increasing her medication as well as laser and water therapy had some effect, but one of the veterinarians at the clinic wanted to doublecheck that Reka had been diagnosed correctly. She recommended Bark City Animal Specialists in Park City, and there a neurologist performed a new round of assessments and reviews. The diagnosis: lumbosacral disease.

Caused by the compression of nerves in the spinal canal at the lumbosacral junction, lumbosacral disease is especially common in German shepherds. While not necessarily lethal, it's a serious condition that can worsen over time. Reka's options were surgery or steroid injections. Mark explained that the family opted for the latter choice in the hopes that it would improve Reka's condition enough to handle the former.

"If the body accepts the injection and does well," Mark said, "you'll probably get a couple of weeks out of it, and then they do another one, and you'll get a month or two, and then another. You get a little bit longer each time. Obviously, we knew this was not a curable thing for Reka, but we wanted her to be comfortable and live without the volume of pain she'd been living in. She was stoic, but we knew she was hurting."

"It was very hard for her to go up and down stairs," said Debra. "And eventually, getting up from a prone or even sitting position was difficult."

Unfortunately, the injections only provided Reka with about a day and a half of relief, and she needed to be off the medication for five days completely before having surgery. With the procedure no longer an option, the Hoyts' veterinarian increased her pain medication dosage. However, over the next weekend, Reka deteriorated even further to the point where she needed support just to eat. The Hoyts had already broached the topic of Reka's end-of-life care, and now they had a choice to make.

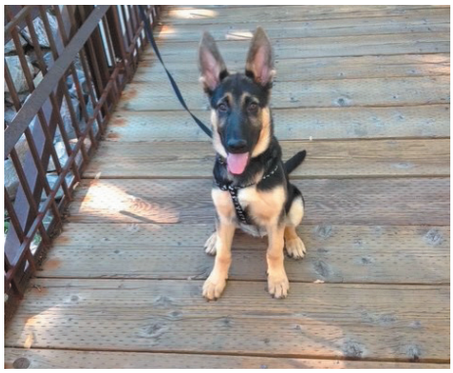
"We had so many long conversations about trying to decide what was best for her rather than us," said Debra. "Keeping her with us as long as possible was obviously the best thing for us, but it wasn't for her. We had a quality-of-life assessment where you go through a list of conditions, and if it's only one or two things on the list, that's not bad, but if it's 10 out of 12, that's a clear sign. And Reka was an 11 out of 12, and we knew she was never going to get better.

"[Reka] would want to make sure the people around her were happy. And if she can do that by teaching veterinarians to help other dogs, I know that's exactly where she should be."

- Jake Hoyt

"Because of all the love she'd given us," added Mark, "we had to love Reka enough to help her across the rainbow bridge. We made the decision Monday night to send her across on Wednesday. Obviously, it was an extremely difficult decision knowing that our beautiful, beautiful, loving animal and friend was not going to be with us."

That was also when the idea came to Mark to see about donating Reka's body to USU's willed body program.





Reka at home.

"I was sitting there," he said, "absorbing everything I felt. And while I hadn't thought about it before, I just felt something. So I turned to Deb and asked, 'Hey, what do you think about donating her to Utah State University?' I hadn't even researched it before, and I think she was taken aback, but the more we talked about it, the more it seemed like it would be a good thing."

Mark reached out to Melisa Bishop, the program coordinator for the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the two began a long discussion. He learned that if Reka's body was donated, the Hoyts would not get her ashes back, which was tough to accept considering that they still had the remains of their previous two German shepherds with them. However, Bishop showed she understood that hardship and did her best to answer the family's questions.

"She didn't put any pressure on us," Mark said. "Melisa was fantastic about actually talking to us, and she sent us detailed information about what Reka's future at the school would look like. And the more we talked about it, the more we thought Reka would be upset with us if we stuck her on the shelf with our two boys instead of letting her be the center of attention where she was used to being. That was where she could help people, and that's what she always wanted."

Bishop has managed the willed body program since its creation, and she's seen how it contributes to every part of the educational experience at USU, including courses such as anatomy, anesthesia, principles of surgery, fundamentals of veterinary neurology, and clinical pathology. Among other uses, donations may become full-mounted skeletons that can help students learn for generations or bone boxes that show how the parts of the body fit together.

In all cases, explained Bishop, donations make a real difference in preparing quality veterinarians.

"We're very fortunate to have a community that wants to support our students in their hands-on learning through this type of donation," said Bishop. "Our program allows us to augment model-based instruction, where otherwise, students don't get the opportunity to practice on real tissue before they move on to live animals. And because actual tissue acts differently from a model, you can imagine that they might feel some anxiety about that. But when our students have moved into clinics, they've reported feeling very self-confident. They don't fear stepping up when asked to scrub into surgeries, and that's vitally important for their education and progression into veterinarians."

As a flight paramedic for Intermountain Life Flight for 18 years, Mark was already familiar with the importance of the right training for providing lifesaving care. Additionally, his own mother had chosen to donate her body after her death to the University of Utah's medical program, where she was studied for around nine months before her ashes were returned. Both experiences gave him an appreciation for the impact of the willed body program.

"You can only do so much with mannequins," Mark said. "If you can actually see what your procedure does on a human or animal, it embeds it in your mind far more deeply. You learn much more effectively than you would just reading or watching videos and PowerPoint presentations."

After families decide to donate to the program, they receive a note from Dr. Dirk Vanderwall, the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. In it, he thanks them and explains the impact of their donation on USU students, the teaching capabilities of the program's faculty and staff, and the future of veterinary medicine.



Mark and Jake with Reka.

Bishop hopes donors know how grateful the college is for their support.

"It's hard to lose a pet, a family member," said Bishop. "If a family has to put their pet down, someone so close to them, then we want to give them a sense of purpose and the knowledge that their animal will go on and be remembered. Not only by their family, but through the advancement of veterinary medicine. And they'll always be extra special to us at the College of Veterinary Medicine."

On February 7, 2024, Reka was put to sleep. The Hoyts' veterinarian was surprised by their choice to donate, but she supported the idea and agreed to keep Reka's body until the family could transport it to USU on February 12. When they arrived on campus, Bishop was there to meet them.

"We brought Melisa Reka's records, eulogy, and pictures," said Mark, "and we probably talked for half an hour in the parking lot about the process and just how much we wanted Reka to be able to help others and give back for everything she was given. We're grateful for the opportunity to help others become the veterinarians that animals need."

"She'd want to be where everyone can see her in all her glory and learn from her," said Jake. "And she would want to make sure the people around her were happy. And if she can do that by teaching veterinarians to help other dogs, I know that's exactly where she should be."

After leaving USU, the Hoyts had one other stop: the Cache Vally Humane Society. With Reka's passing so fresh on their minds, they didn't plan on adopting a new dog anytime soon. However, they had seen a dog in the area on a German shepherd rescue website, and their curiosity got the better of them.

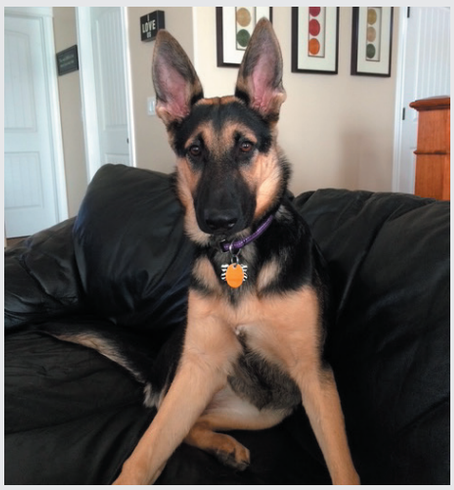
"We went to the shelter after leaving Reka in Melisa's care," said Debra. "And of course, we were all pretty somber after going through that emotional experience. Once there, we waited in a room where you meet the potential adoptees, and this darling German Shepherd mix came bouncing in right up to us, and she gave Mark a little kiss on the nose. Our hearts just melted. Her name is Kiki, and she lives with us now."

"She's been a joy," said Mark. "I thought it would be three to six months minimum before I would be ready to get another dog, but we feel like Reka told us, 'You're already going to be up here, and you need to provide a home for this rescue.' Kiki had been in the shelter since November, and she was a stray with no identification who nobody claimed. And she's thrived since coming into our home."

The Hoyts were still emotional when recounting Reka's story, yet they also couldn't contain their joy at having Kiki in their lives.

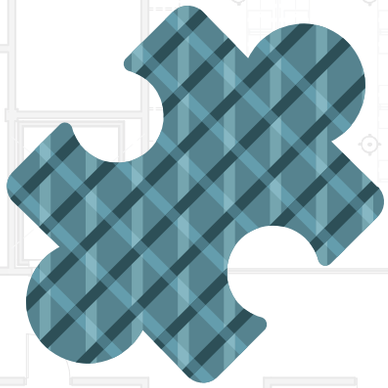
"We miss Reka like crazy," said Mark. "No one, no dog could ever replace her. But being able to care for a dog who needed a good home is what Reka would have wanted us to do."

"If Reka didn't want Kiki in her home," said Jake, "Reka wouldn't have let us adopt her. So we feel very fortunate that Reka guided us to her and allowed her to come into our lives." ●



COMPLETING THE PUZZLE:

How VCBO designed the new Veterinary Medical Education Building



With plans in motion to create a four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, Utah State University is in the process of reimagining the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). And in the case of the Veterinary Medical Education Building (VME), a three-story, 106,000 square-foot facility that will open in the summer of 2026, that process is taking shape in literally concrete terms. The choices the college makes about the VME today will shape the education of veterinarians for decades to come.

Because the curriculum and institutional structure of the college are also in flux, the creation of the VME presents an opportunity for the education provided by the college to be reflected in the new building — and vice versa. As Frank Lloyd Wright famously argued, "Form follows function — that has been misunderstood. Form and function should be one, joined in a spiritual union."

To make the purpose and design of the VME one and the same, the CVM entrusted Salt Lake City-based VCBO Architecture with planning the new building, and Principal Architect Derek Payne was chosen to lead the project. Along with Principal Architect Whitney Ward and Associate Architect Lorianne Bisping, Payne discussed what it means to work on a project of the VME's scale and complexity.

What goes into planning something like the VME? And what do your roles in that look like?



Derek Payne: It started in 2019 when Whitney and I worked on a feasibility study for the veterinary school. We met with the faculty and steering committee and found out what spaces were needed in the building, and then we helped them figure out how big they should be. Beyond that, we tried to get to the essence of the project. Even in a feasibility study, we want to understand your vision. Once we settled on the size of the building and its spaces, the location, and its orientation, we started to think about mechanical and electrical systems, and then we did some massing and renderings.

The final thing was tallying up a budget to give a sense of how much the whole thing would cost. In that phase, it was a very different project.



Whitney Ward: We had a larger square footage coming out of our feasibility study that was reflective of the vision and goals of the college at that time. We also had a couple different sites early on because the university was still figuring out the best location for the college. But that study was then able to go to the legislature to pursue funding for the programming and design process, so it was the first step in understanding the size, scope, and budget even if it changed later on.

DP: So we put a number together, and it went to the legislature. It didn't get completely funded, and it took a little while to get approved. But the legislature saying yes was only the first step, since doing the feasibility study didn't guarantee us the job. We had to interview with and prove to the steering committee and USU Facilities that we were the best team to work on the project. Hopefully, we demonstrated that in the interview, and we were chosen to continue into programming, which happens even before design. That's what Whitney does.

WW: Programming takes the same steps as the feasibility study, including validating the size, skeleton, and spaces. There were some good conversations about needs versus wants and honing in on priority spaces. We asked the CVM to guide us on the vision for the school, and we guided them on space sizes and needs for a program that doesn't exist. They developed their curriculum concurrent to us developing the architecture for the building, leading to a very integrated process as we worked together with faculty and the CVM leadership team to figure out how the architecture and curriculum could most effectively align.



DP: In that programming process, we were able to narrow down the essence of what was needed to open the school, and we compared that with the budget the legislature gave us. There was enough money for the building, but not quite enough for what the college needed for research, and so the building ended up being smaller than in the feasibility study to compensate.

After programming comes the design phase, and that's when you characterize what the architecture is all about. We begin by thinking about the component pieces of the building, whether that's in terms of physical blocks or digital software. Things like the lab, surgery, and research pieces of the project are more intensive because of equipment and mechanical ventilation, so it sometimes behooves you to separate such systems from, say, the classrooms and office wings. And so we work to put everything together piece by piece.

There's a kind of magic to that process. It's hard to describe here because we're used to drawing everything, but if you make a Venn diagram of where those things intersect in the VME, that's where we ended up putting the student forum space, the social heart of the building. We were trying to make things as affordable as possible, so the envelope was tight and compressed, but we still wanted to make those sorts of special spaces for the students, and the forum emerged naturally out of that.

WW: Speaking of the forum, something we considered during the design process was how veterinary students are under a lot of academic stress as well as the challenges of dealing with sick animals on a regular basis. The leadership team at the college wanted to make sure the students had comfortable spaces where they could study for long hours while still having access to views and outdoor spaces where they could connect with nature or just take a moment to decompress, and so student wellness was prioritized within our design. Making the heart of the building into that kind of social space where students could also work on their mental health and well-being was important to us.



Lorianne Bisping: There's also a wellness suite where we provided a space for students to go and just have a quiet moment or talk to a counselor. It was clear to us that the faculty and staff are very caring and want the students to succeed, so we made sure they had space to grow.

DP: The next stage after the initial design was getting the structure, the steel and concrete, incorporated as well. The mechanical system has to work in all of those spaces, and this was probably one of the most complex buildings our firm has ever undertaken. And we've done some pretty complex healthcare projects in the past.

LB: It has a lot of facets of different projects we've done. It has a hospital component with pre-op and post-op surgery, places for students to learn suturing techniques, all of that stuff. And then there are mock exam spaces where they can learn to interact with patients and clients and the anatomy lab space where they can learn about the animals they're going to be working with for the rest of their lives.

DP: There are research and teaching labs, lecture halls, offices for faculty with great views, bathrooms, classrooms. In our office, we have people focused on higher education, K-12, healthcare, recreation, and more, and we needed to bring so many of these specialties together to work on the building. It's been a fun project.

What was the greatest challenge you faced when designing the VME?

DP: Probably the budget.

WW: Since the middle of the pandemic, we've had a lot of fluctuation in construction costs, the skilled labor supply chain, and getting equipment in a timely manner. It's not uncommon, but it is what feels most complex.





DP: Because it keeps us up at night.

LB: Ten years ago, we used to know how much a building would ultimately cost. Nowadays, it's always up in the air every time.

DP: There's always a shortage of something, so you just never know what will hit the construction budget next. That's a challenge for us and also our contractors, but together, we overcome it. We've never not built a project because it was over budget — we always figure it out.

What stands out to you most about the design for the VME? What are you most proud of?

WW: I'm most proud of how we were able to create an innovative, student-centric building that will be able to provide the breadth of experiences that Lorianne mentioned. Students will be able to engage with one another and faculty while also getting an in-depth, scientific basis for the work they're doing, all within this one interactive facility.

DP: At the end of the day, it always comes down to helping our clients develop their vision for a building and making all of those parts function. It's not an easy thing to puzzle together when you consider how you have this much square footage or that much budget. Sometimes, you have to really squeeze to make it work, and the VME was like that. It's going to be a great building, but because of the external pressure, we had to move things around maybe three or four times more than we would have liked. But at the end of the day, the puzzle still ended up complete. It's fun to see it coming together.

LB: For me, being part of this historical moment is really incredible. We were able to work on this incredible project that will not only transform USU for the better, but also Utah as a whole. It's going to provide students with the support they need to learn and professors with what they need to teach.

DP: It's heartwarming to be a part of it. It's pretty heartrending to remember and think of all the people that haven't been able to fulfill their dream of becoming a veterinarian in Utah, who just didn't have access to the schooling.

LB: And not just in Utah. One of my best friends has a niece who ended up going to Australia to get her degree because it's so competitive trying to get into any program. Sometimes it's easier to look beyond our country, which is crazy to think about. And that's talent that goes away and never comes back.

Each of you seem very knowledgeable about the college. How did you become so familiar with the terminology and thinking of the CVM?

DP: The illusion is working! No, but seriously, we have to know a little bit about everything. We had a consultant from Albuquerque who mostly works on spaces for animals and was a great resource for us. We've also been talking with USU's faculty for around five years now, and I think some of that rubbed off on us after so much time. So yeah, we feel like we understand what the CVM needs. You have to know that to design a space that's effective for how it will be used.

WW: I'll also add that in those five years of meetings, the most valuable thing we could do was to listen to what those needs are and use our knowledge and experience to translate that into architecture. At the end of the day, when we're good listeners, we come out speaking the same language. ●

By: Ethan Brightbill

Scan here to view a webcam of construction progress or visit usu.edu/webcams/cvm-construction



New Faculty 101:
Welcoming new faces

Ammon Brown



My role includes teaching as well as diagnostic work at the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (UVDL). Right now, I teach veterinary toxicology. To give you a sense of what a day looks like for me, I taught class this morning at 8:00 a.m. and then returned to the UVDL. As I walked in, I saw someone from the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources getting ready to leave. I stopped and talked with them for a minute, and as I suspected, they were dropping off an animal — a pronghorn antelope for necropsy. For today's necropsies, I currently have a horse fetus with placenta, a pronghorn antelope, and a small psittacine. I also have biopsies from throughout the state that veterinarians have sent in.

My goals for the coming years are to create courses in pathology and toxicology to strengthen our graduate program. I would also like to create a leadership seminar course for both veterinary students and graduate students within the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Mike Clayton



My role in the CVM consists of teaching and diagnostics. My teaching role includes teaching the veterinary clinical pathology course in the second year and teaching the musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, hepatic and respiratory sections in physiology. My diagnostic role is at the UVDL and includes performing necropsies and biopsies.

I came to USU in 2017 to pursue board certification in veterinary pathology and a PhD. I passed the pathology boards in 2021 and successfully defended my PhD in 2023. I'm proud to be a part of the faculty and staff of the CVM. I look forward to working alongside the amazing people in the college to create our own veterinary program.

Scott Hexum



I very recently moved into a lecturer position after working here as an anatomy technician since 2020, and I'm looking forward to my new role. Lecturing forces me to learn anatomy better and create more efficient ways to explain the topics and structures. It will take time to improve my lecturing abilities, and it would be nice to get past some of the nervousness I still feel when I lecture, but I'm eager to begin.

With the establishment of our own veterinary college, I'm excited about developing the program and the opportunity for us to be responsible for ourselves, independent of the duty to do exactly what another institution needs us to do to match what they teach. That's not an insult towards Washington State and the WIMU Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine at all — it just feels like we're teenagers leaving the nest and ready to figure out how to do things on our own. We have a remarkable amount of knowledge, experience, and dedication, and we'll make this into an outstanding veterinary college.

On a personal level, I have a lot of experience with large class sizes and students from widely varied backgrounds, and I'm glad to know I'll feel comfortable when we have many more students in our labs, lecture rooms, and hallways. It's very rewarding being involved with our new college from day one — or almost day one, considering it's been in discussions for quite a while before being made a reality — and now assisting with the plans for the building and development of the curriculum in preparation for this fall's incoming class.

Stephanie Martinez



I'm an assistant professor of pharmacology, and like most professors, I wear many hats, so no two days look the same. My primary appointment is research, where I focus on improving the efficacy and safety of drug therapies in veterinary species with an emphasis on drug metabolism, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacogenomics. My work spans companion animals, food animals, and exotic and wildlife species.

I'll also be teaching pharmacology to our DVM students, and we're currently developing the pharmacology component for the independent DVM curriculum. Additionally, I engage in service, including serving on the new CVM Graduate Committee, where we're building the college's graduate program.

Over the coming year, my goals are to establish my research laboratory at USU —acquiring specialized equipment, recruiting graduate students and other lab members, conducting pilot studies, and applying for research funding — while finalizing the pharmacology curriculum for our new DVM program. I hope to contribute insights from my experiences at other veterinary colleges to help shape the USU CVM into a premier institution. More than anything, I'm excited to help build a new college and ingrain a positive, collaborative culture in our foundation.

Mike McEntire



I have two primary roles at the CVM. The first is helping to design the clinical components of the third-year curriculum as well as parts of the second year curriculum. This includes developing the medicine and surgery courses (for small animals, equine, agricultural animals, and zoological companion animals), anesthesia, live animal surgery, diagnostic imaging, and the culmination of the clinical skills courses in the third year. The second component is developing the zoological medicine portions of the curriculum, including the core parts of the curriculum starting with first year form and function courses, across body in disease courses in the second year, and culminating in medicine & surgery the third year with additional electives offered for terrestrial zoological medicine, aquatic animal medicine, and free-ranging wildlife medicine.

My goals are to help develop a curriculum that ties in clinical skills, reasoning, and medical and surgical knowledge is such a way that students can apply principles across whatever taxa they choose to work with. I'm hoping with my experience across all species in zoological medicine that I'll be able to help students be comfortable seeing species that they normally wouldn't be comfortable with – whether that's just domestic species they have less experience with or being comfortable enough to see a zoological companion animal that they never thought they'd be able to treat.

Jessica Sanchez



I'm a veterinarian and wildlife biologist with a PhD in epidemiology and an emphasis in wildlife disease ecology. My research interests include One Health, the role of animal social structure and spatial movements in disease transmission, population health of free-ranging wildlife, and the conservation of endangered species and ecosystems. I enjoy multidisciplinary studies that incorporate field work, clinical medicine, GIS mapping, and mathematical modeling.

As an assistant professor of epidemiology, I look forward to teaching students about animal population health. I'm excited for the future of the CVM.

Alexis Sweat



I'm currently in charge of designing, developing, and implementing a clinical skills curriculum for the new four-year vet med program. I coordinate the instruction of all clinical veterinary skills to prepare our students to enter the distributive clinics during their fourth year. I'm passionate about giving the students the skills they need to succeed during that last year and as new graduates.

I came to USU as an undergrad in 2010 and was accepted into the first class of the WIMU Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine before graduating in 2016. I've been teaching and working as a clinical veterinarian at USU since 2018. I'm looking forward to focusing on teaching in my new role.

Allison Willoughby



While I've worked at USU since 2013, my new role is as an assistant professor in professional skills. I'm responsible for the Diagnostic Challenge, the clinical communication and ethics courses, and the creation of the new professional skills curriculum. The new curriculum will include these subjects as well as evidence-based veterinary medicine, clinical reasoning, and personal and professional finance. We'll also expand the clinical communication program to include progressively more challenging situations. This allows for a lot of variety in my day between making our current program the best it can be while creating and expanding for the future.

With students now spending all four years at USU, I look forward to seeing students gain skills from start to finish! It will also be nice to have our own centralized space to help build more community.

Marie Yamane



I'm a professional practice assistant professor, and I contribute to the clinical skills and Thinking Like a Veterinarian courses in the new curriculum. These classes help students to develop hands-on technical skills while fostering clinical reasoning and case management.

Born and raised in Utah, I completed my undergraduate studies at Utah State University and later graduated from the WIMU Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine. My strong ties to USU made it an easy decision to return and support the next generation of veterinarians. ●

By: Ethan Brightbill

Student Profile

Cherish Cosman

Veterinary medicine is a career change for me. My first passion was politics and government. I graduated from USU with a bachelor's degree in political science, having completed internships in both Washington, D.C. with the US House of Representatives and Salt Lake City with the Utah Legislature, where I finally found my home. State government – especially in Utah – is and always will be a true love of mine. However, I had begun exploring other interests and talents and discovered a passion for veterinary medicine halfway through my undergraduate degree. While working for the State of Utah, I recognized there were many areas where our state needed more people willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Veterinary medicine was one such area and I was ready to fill that need. I took classes online and at night to obtain all the prerequisites for veterinary school and started gathering hours in my spare time. I was fortunate to find great mentors both in the political arena and in veterinary medicine who inspired, taught, nurtured, and encouraged me to achieve the most I could. They're a big part of why I'm finally here finishing my 3rd year and getting ready to enter clinics.

What motto do you live by?

Cosman: I have two. The first is, "Check all your boxes." While working in D.C., a White House aide I really admired gave me that advice when I was beginning to explore new careers, and it has become my mantra ever since. People are not made from cookie cutters – our paths to success will all look very different and are dynamic. Life is just long enough to do all the things that inspire and excite us – to check all our boxes – if we get after it.

The second is, "Put me in, coach." I've found that half the battle is showing up with a willing attitude and enthusiasm for the job, no matter how small or how daunting. This has helped me the most when I'm trying new things, struggling to find motivation for the menial, or doing something that intimidates me. It hypes me up and gives me just enough edge to jump in with gusto.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school/work?

Cosman: I love going to hockey games with my family. My husband is a hockey coach, so most of the time it's to games where he's on the bench. But whenever we get to watch together, it's really special. I garden, paint (mostly to refinish furniture), play volleyball whenever I can, and am always up for watching *Pride & Prejudice*.

What is something you enjoy about living in Cache Valley?

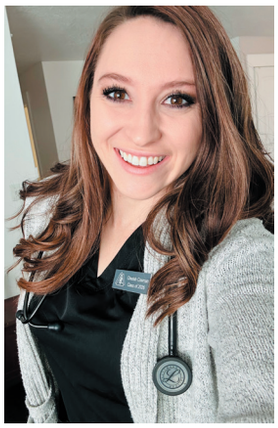
Cosman: Our neighborhood is a little slice of heaven. My four-year-old son has a gaggle of boys about his age that he has easily fallen into step with and they all float from house to house as they play. Our neighbors are true Cache Valley people: sweet, strong, and always there when you need them. We've been truly blessed to have so many good people in our lives. Our neighbors and our hockey community are some of the greatest

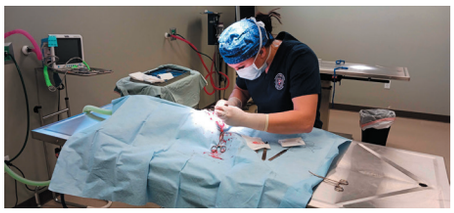
What is your favorite season of the year?

Cosman: Hockey season! Just kidding, it's summer. Summers in Utah are amazing; lots of hiking, swimming, gardening, not to mention the farmer's markets, Peach Days, Raspberry Days, the county and state fair, and enough time on my hands to rollerblade with the family every now and again.

What has been the biggest surprise so far about vet school or USU in general?

Cosman: We focus so much on having a growth mindset and often get fixated on what we do wrong. But then one day – poof! We actually do understand and have the skill – in a pretty short amount of time. Improvement happens in the blink of an eye. I'm doing things by habit now that I found challenging just three months ago. Yes, the pace is absolutely furious, which is difficult in the moment (and surprising all on its own). But once you're through it, the amount of growth is astounding (if you have time to think about it, that is)!







Left: Cherish Cosman.

Below: My very first spay was with the USU Surgery Club.

Bottom: Camel blood draw with my classmate Nick Marrow.

What advice would you give someone considering going into veterinary science?

Cosman: Know that it's doable and everything is figure-out-able. There will definitely be times you won't think you can do it and can't see past the next exam. But believe me, you can do it and that DVM is waiting with your name on it. Get to know your professors, the administrators, the technicians, and people in the community. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there or ask for the help you need. There are so many people in your corner. ●

Grad Paper Identifies Surprising Gaps in Reproductive Research

One need not be a scientist to be aware of societal shifts in our current culture. In "Reproductive toxicology: keeping up with our changing world," graduate research students Laura B. Miller and Morgan B. Feuz identified several such shifts that they argue are not being adequately accounted for in reproductive toxicology study efforts.

In their paper, which was co-authored by College of Veterinary Medicine professors Ralph G. Meyer and Mirella L. Meyer-Ficca and published in the October 2024 issue of *Frontiers in Toxicology*, the authors suggest that delayed reproduction, obesity trends and the onslaught of manmade and natural chemicals in our environment necessitate deeper consideration in study models.

Miller says the genesis for it came about when the team took a dive into the latest literature on reproductive toxicology.

"We made a list of things that we thought of together, that we thought of as gaps in the literature," Miller says. "And then we went and searched for those things and saw if we could find more on each of those topics, and if we could, noted that they had been addressed."

The first trend identified by the authors is aging, and particularly, the fertility of older individuals conceiving children.

"Current toxicological testing protocols do not require an age-stratified testing design, or, at a minimum, inclusion of age-specific models that could reflect older individuals, despite the trend of increasing paternal and maternal age in the population, and despite the fact that both are known to adversely affect reproductive success," the paper states.

Women's reproductive potential is more well-studied than men's, the authors indicate. Miller says that she was surprised to learn, at a conference one year ago, that in 30 to 50 percent of couples battling infertility, the problem is associated with a problem of the man, and that "paternal age effect" disorders link older fathers to a higher risk of having children with schizophrenia, ADHD, and autism.

While women's health is more at the forefront of the social consciousness around fertility, Miller says there are small signs of a growing awareness of male genetic contributions. She says a friend recently sent her a video on social media in which a young man fretted about what habits, like abstaining from alcohol, might improve his sperm health nine months ahead of trying to conceive a child.

Miller says her friend commented triumphantly, "It made it to social media!"

"She was so excited, and I was like, that's really cool because that's exactly what we wrote a paper on a couple months ago," Miller says.

Age-stratified testing in reproductive toxicology is more rare because it takes a lot of time, money and labor to study naturally aged organisms. The same constraints apply to studying the effects of obesity, which is the second trend identified by the authors as a gap in research.

Obesity and age are also linked to the third trend the authors cite: EDC exposure, or the effects of natural or synthetic compounds in the environment that disrupt the normal functioning of hormones. Endocrine disruptors are known for affecting the health of women and, therefore, that of their offspring, particularly during critical time windows of development. Recent reports have also shown that the negative effects of toxic agents on sperm production are exacerbated in older and more obese men.



Laura Miller.

To study the effects of obesity on reproduction, it follows that a scientist would base studies on obese animal models. But obese animals come with their own limitations, Miller says.

"Just breeding fat animals doesn't work very well at all," Miller says. "They just don't breed very well, which is a real pain."

And the limits on studying environmental hazards and reproductivity are challenging, Miller says, when you consider that it isn't just one chemical or compound that our bodies are exposed to. Daily, people collide with a snowglobe of pollutants and chemical substances in our environments, in untold combinations.

"There are so many limitations if you try to study combined effect," Miller says. "In one study, if one toxin specifically was given at a high dose, it would have an effect, but if you combined it with, like, two other (toxins) you could give it at a super low dose, and it would have an even more dramatic effect. So it's hard to identify dosages."

In a way, Miller is following her own paper's advice through her graduate work in Meyer-Ficca's lab, where they study NAD levels in genetically altered mice. Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, or NAD, plays a role in DNA repair and maintenance, among other things, and its levels decline in our bodies with age.

When the authors of a research paper acknowledge the gaps or limitations in their methodology, it helps with research down the road, Miller says.

"You take that into consideration when planning your own research project, right?" she says. "A lot of times, you base it off somebody else." ●

By: Nadia Pflaum

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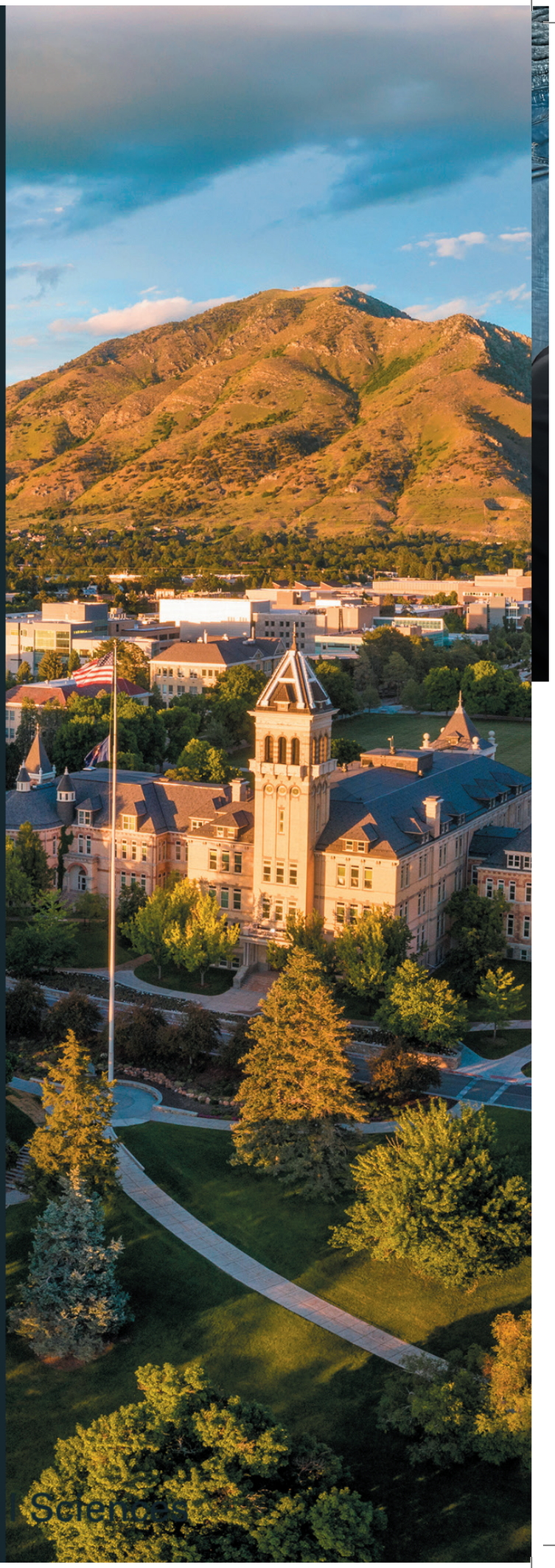
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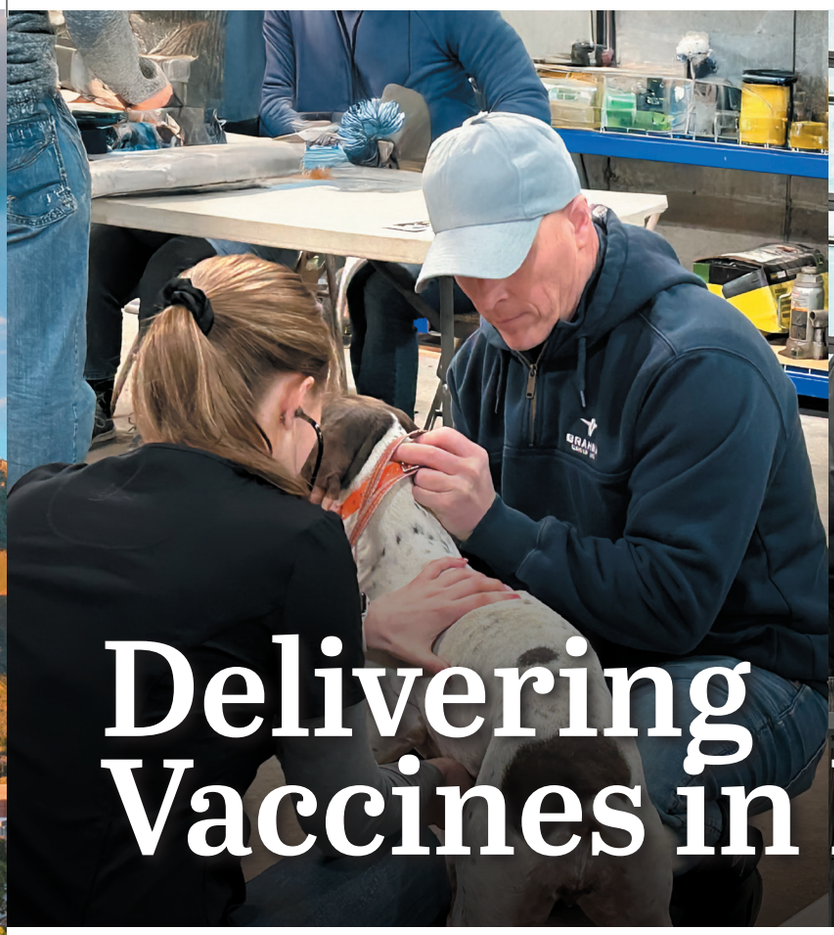
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Delivering Vaccines in Rural Utah

In a shed in Clarkston, Utah, next to the church, behind the fire station, four Utah State University students in the College of Veterinary Medicine rolled up their sleeves on a winter Saturday, ready to meet some dogs and their owners.

Clarkston has a population of 769, says Mayor Craig Hidalgo, and about 300 registered dogs. For 20 years, dating back to when he was on the town council, Clarkston has partnered with veterinarians from the Cache Veterinary Practitioners Association and USU to offer a clinic administering rabies vaccines to its citizens' dogs.

"We do have some dog bites," Hidalgo says. "And people love their dogs."

The service is more convenient for residents than driving to the closest veterinary clinic, in Richmond, 12 miles away.

According to the Veterinary Care Accessibility Project, which compares population data to the number of veterinary care services per county, Cache County's Veterinary Care Accessibility Score is 45 out of 100, which means "care is somewhat accessible." There are 2.9 veterinary employees per 1,000 pets in Cache County. Compare this to another Utah county, Sanpete, with a score of 19, where "veterinary care is nearly inaccessible."

Sanpete County would be considered a "veterinary desert," a term the American Veterinary Medical Association formalized in 2023 to define areas with limited access to veterinary care, in order to aim program expansion and implementation to these places.

Logan-area veterinarian Susan Benson, with Bridgerland-Cache Animal Hospital, is on hand to provide licensed oversight. She says she enjoys coming to this annual outreach effort.

"It's my favorite of the clinics," Benson says. "It's fast-paced."

She's right. Over the next two hours, the shed door opens again and again, as dog owners burst in holding leashes restraining all manner of canine companions. There are at least a dozen German shorthaired pointers, a great dane, a frenchy, a dachshund, a corgi, a husky, several labradors, a bulldog and a chihuahua, all getting their temperature taken and their heartbeats assessed with varying levels of patience.



Top Left: Katelynn Slater examines a patient.

Top Right: Tessa Ganellen palpitates a dog.

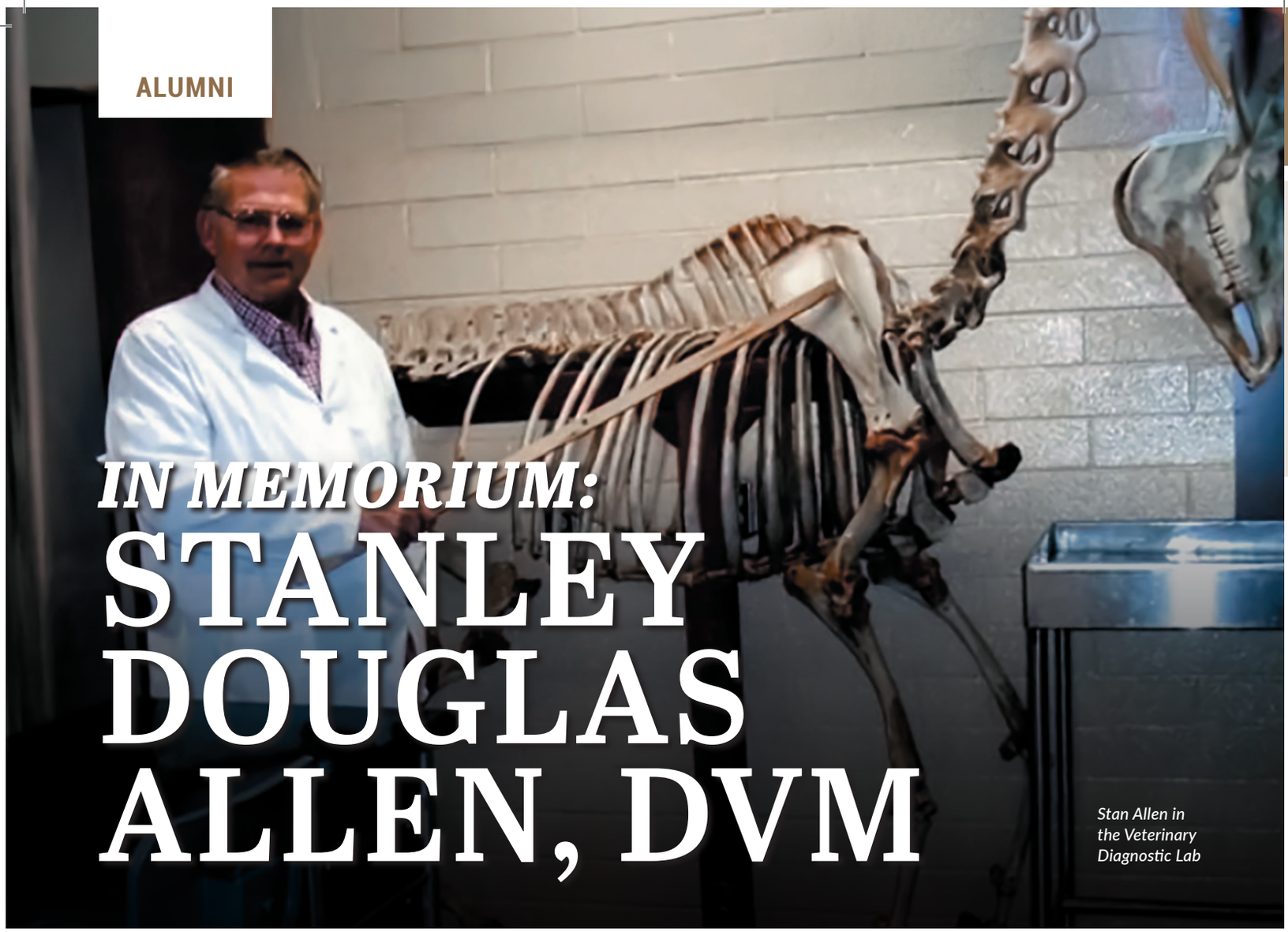
Above: Jared Slater listens to a heart.

Students Jared and Katelynn Slater, Tessa Ganellen and Bailey Bunker each came armed with their own thermometers and stethoscopes, dressed warmly as instructed. All had previous experience as lab technicians or in veterinary practices doing pre-vaccination exams and administering shots.

The great dane defecated in nervous anticipation, and the mayor removed the pile with one swift scrape of a shovel.

In all, 36 dogs received rabies shots, at $25 each, a similar turnout to the previous year's. The proceeds contribute to scholarships provided by the Cache Veterinary Practitioners Association for the College of Veterinary Medicine. Four other vaccine clinics were held in South Nibley, Paradise, Richmond and Mendon, Utah, between January and March. ●

By: Nadia Pflaum



IN MEMORIUM: STANLEY DOUGLAS ALLEN, DVM

Stan Allen in the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

The College of Veterinary Medicine would like to acknowledge the passing of a dear colleague, Stanley Douglas Allen, on September 28, 2024.

Allen was born in Provo, Utah, and grew up on a farm in Hyrum, later working on the Allen Brothers wheat farm in Box Elder County. He attended and graduated from South Cache Seminary and South Cache High School and served a two-year mission in Virginia and North Carolina.

He then attended Utah State University, where he met his wife, Karen, and they were engaged prior to his departure to Iowa State University for veterinary school. They were married in the Logan Temple on June 19, 1968.

After earning his DVM, Stan and Karen moved to Salt Lake City, where he began working as Chief Veterinarian at University of Utah's Artificial Heart Test and Evaluation Facility, in 1971.

In 1978, Stan began working at USU's Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, where he'd worked during summers between semesters in Iowa. He worked at USU for almost 30 years, retiring in 2007.

Many fond recollections of Stan are recorded on the website of Allen Mortuaries (allenmortuaries.net/obituaries/stanley-allen).



Stan's 4th birthday.

PET MEMORIAL GIVING





After losing a pet, many people take comfort in the knowledge that they provided the best life possible for their companion. Utah State University's Pet Memorial Giving Program offers an opportunity to extend your pet's legacy by funding research, student scholarships, and building infrastructure in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

By supporting the next generation of great veterinarians, you ensure that animals in Utah and elsewhere get the medical attention they need to enjoy long and happy lives.

You can donate on our secure website at **vetmed.usu.edu/give-back**,

Arlo Anderson wrote, "When I returned from my mission Stan was my roommate for the first year at USU. I have always credited him with giving me the confidence to tackle hard things. He was a great mentor to me."

Jim Pfister recalled, "For six years I worked with Stan on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at USU; Stan was the attending veterinarian and the administrator of the IACUC committee. Stan guided the committee through many tough questions and situations with a deft personal touch. I learned a great deal from watching and listening to Stan over the years."

In his retirement years, Stan remained very active in the church; he and Karen served in Namibia, in the South Africa Cape Town LDS Mission, and at Cinnamon Creek Camp in Cache Valley.

Stan was an avid supporter of USU sports, and a chronicler of family history, with particular interest in converted ancestors.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Karen, his four children and ten grandchildren, his sister and sister-in-law, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

The Allen family has generously directed donations to the Utah State University College of Veterinary Medicine. ●

By: Nadia Pflaum

Visit usu.edu/stanallen to donate.







Top: Stan (center) at the 28th ward with counselors Ross Wright (left) and Herm Olsen (right).

Middle: Stan and Karen cheer on the Aggies.

Right: Photos from Stan's childhood.

MESSAGE FROM DEVELOPMENT

I am so grateful to be part of the CVM and have enjoyed the warm welcome I received. I am a native of Cache Valley and studied Animal Science at USU, completing a bachelor's degree and then a master's degree. I had the privilege to study under Dr. Vanderwall for my graduate work, and to interact with numerous other current CVM faculty during that time. I am fortunate to be here to watch everyone's hard work pay off as the program grows.

I always wanted to be a veterinarian, and though I went the research route and a different career path, I have a great appreciation for and understanding of the profession. When I became aware of the position of development director, specifically for the College of Veterinary Medicine, I knew that's where I wanted to be.

"Development Director" is a title that may be unfamiliar to some. Essentially, a development director is someone who plans and creates strategies for raising funds to start scholarships, fund research, and assist individuals who want to make an impact on education, as a philanthropic advisor. I love working with donors who want to support education and helping them find ways to create impact that is meaningful to them and those they support. We have many generous and supportive people behind the CVM, and it is an honor to work with these individuals and groups.

My days all look a little different, but typically I am in the office for the beginning and end of the week, making contacts, attending meetings, planning and doing administrative work. I use the middle of the week to travel to visit donors and develop relationships with new individuals seeking to support the college. I have really enjoyed these encounters with so many amazing people.

In the short time I have been in this position, I have had the privilege of meeting numerous alumni and donors for our college and have come away from each interaction so impressed and humbled by what inspires them to give to the CVM. I have enjoyed everyone I have visited with so far and love learning about their lives, careers, families, and what it is about the CVM that they want to support. I particularly enjoy hearing stories from veterinarians about their paths through school and their careers (veterinarians always have a good story!).

Being USU's newest college has its challenges. From a development view, we don't have a deep and longstanding alumni base yet, but are so grateful for the people who are already supporting us, whether they have a connection to USU, veterinary medicine, or are just passionate about animals and veterinary education in Utah. Every donation is received with gratitude for acknowledgement of our growing program. As our building takes shape and our physical presence is more obvious, awareness of the program and our students is so appreciated. Every contribution makes a difference, and we are grateful for our partners helping us build a successful College of Veterinary Medicine.

I am reaching out to many who are connected to USU, but always welcome those who want to contact me with questions. I can be reached at kate.parkinson@usu.edu. ●



KATE PARKINSON
Director of Development, USU CVM



MOUNTAINLANDS
Utah Veterinary Summit

September 27-28
2025

Loveland Living Planet Aquarium
Draper, Utah

Mark your calendar and plan to join veterinarians from around the state for networking and continuing education opportunities.

For more information, please contact Dr. Kerry Rood, kerry.rood@usu.edu.

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