



香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

United,
We Soar 城就未來
共創明天計劃

Centre for Companion Animal Health





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Safeguarding animal health and welfare is essential for a thriving planet. Although animals suffer from many of the same ailments as humans, including cancer, respiratory disease, kidney and joint problems, animals often require unique solutions.

The Centre for Companion Animal Health (CAAH), the first of its kind in Asia, was created to support high-quality research with the primary goal of promoting the health and welfare of cats, dogs and horses, collectively known as companion animals. Our research teams are committed to bringing evidenced-based solutions to diverse problems affecting companion animals in today's society.

Established in 2020, the CCAH is an Applied Strategic Development Centre of the CityU and a multidisciplinary team of veterinary researchers with complementary expertise and shared core values of excellence, integrity and compassion.

The Centre also provides an interactive and interdisciplinary environment for veterinary education and training. Related research projects to support the development of research capacity are provided for students studying the Bachelor Degree of Veterinary Medicine, Master Degree of Biomedical Sciences and the Interdisciplinary PhD Programme in Veterinary Medicine. The training for a cadre of PhD students in particular paves the way for making significant contributions towards CityU's research impact and raising the standards of animal health and welfare in the region and globally.





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Professional and Multidisciplinary Team

Led by founding Director, Prof. Julia Beatty, members of CCAH include Prof. Vanessa Barrs, Dr. Rebecca Parkes, Dr. Jun Li, Dr. Alan McElligott and other research members from CityU. The Centre recognizes the value of teamwork in solving complex problems, and works with an extensive and increasing network of collaborators both locally and around the globe.

CityU is pleased to have Prof. Beatty and Prof. Barrs, two renowned feline veterinarians, joining the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences (JCC) in January 2020. Both professors have been leading the clinical teaching and research at the University of Sydney, Australia, for the last 15 years.

Prof. Beatty brings her years of clinical leadership experience in establishing the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, whilst Prof. Barrs is leading the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine program and the research programmes related to One Health.

Highlights of Research Projects

- A novel approach to treating and preventing liver cancer in dogs (Prof. Julia Beatty)
- Preventing fatal respiratory viral infections among cats in Hong Kong (Prof. Vanessa Barrs)
- Developing an automated system for monitoring dog welfare in kennels (Dr. Alan McElligott)
- Using artificial intelligence to identify “silent spreaders” of infectious diseases among Hong Kong’s cats and dogs (Dr. Jun Li)
- Improving equine welfare using innovative virtual reality models to train veterinary students (Dr. Rebecca Parkes)
- Augmented reality (AR) in veterinary teaching (Prof. Vanessa Barrs)



Professor Julia Beatty
Head, Department of
Veterinary Clinical Sciences,
and Chair Professor of
Veterinary Medicine and
Infectious Diseases



Professor Vanessa Barrs
Associate Dean, JCC, and
Chair Professor of Companion
Animal Health and Disease



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Acknowledgement Arrangement for Donation

CityU is cordially inviting a substantial gift in support of its strategic development and research in veterinary medicine via the “United, We Soar” campaign.

In appreciation of the staunch support from our esteemed donor, we are glad to offer the following acknowledgement arrangements:

- Naming of the Centre for Companion Animal Health or other facilities*;
- A ceremony to commemorate the donor’s contribution for CityU;
- Permanent acknowledgement on the University Donor Roll;
- Membership of the CityU Foundation.

*Naming of University facilities/projects is subject to the approval by University Council and the duration of naming ordinarily continues as long as the facilities/projects remain in being.



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Scan for the campaign details

