

## East meets West – a new paradigm for veterinary teaching in Hong Kong

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While there is worldwide concern about a range of issues that require expert veterinary input; such as, the rise of emerging infectious and transboundary animal diseases, food safety and food security and more, veterinary education in western countries has evolved towards training competent practitioners of, predominantly, small animal veterinary medicine. In Asia, however these issues are often right on our door step, need to be urgently addressed and require skill sets that seem now marginalised or disappearing from western veterinary curricula.

In 2014, City University of Hong Kong established a School of Veterinary Medicine in collaboration with Cornell University with the vision to “*strive to be the premier provider of comprehensive, evidence-based veterinary training, research and service in Asia, with particular emphasis on Emerging Infectious Diseases, Food Safety, Animal Welfare and Aquatic Production.*”

The veterinary curriculum at CityU will address Asia-specific issues but also accommodate the core Cornell curriculum and provide world-class training in all subject areas. The curriculum however will address the stated vision and provide, even in the first years of training exposure to issues, such as One Health, the basic concepts of Zoonoses and Food Safety as well as Aquaculture.

At the same time, the school will subject itself to the scrutiny of international accreditation by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council. This will ensure that its graduates will not only be able to achieve internationally accepted (OIE/RCVS) Day 1 competencies in veterinary medicine; they will also be able to practice their skills internationally and be able make a contribution to the region, as well as the city.

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