



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Veterinary Medical Centre

WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
VMC.USASK.CA

2023 Monthly Animal Health Calendar

WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre

Bring your animals to us!

Located on the University of Saskatchewan campus, the WCVN Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) is a state-of-the-art facility that offers a wide range of clinical and referral services to western Canadian animal owners and veterinarians. Visit vmc.usask.ca for more information.

Services

- Accredited pharmacy
- Anesthesia
- Avian, exotic and wildlife medicine and surgery
- Clinical behaviour
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Emergency and critical care
- Field service (ruminant and equine)
- Medical imaging
- Medicine
- Neurology
- Nutrition
- Ophthalmology
- Oncology
- Pet food sales
- Pet wellness
- Rehabilitation
- Reproduction
- Specialized livestock
- Surgery

Board-certified specialists

- Anesthesia
- Avian, exotic, wildlife medicine and surgery
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Equine sports medicine and rehabilitation
- Medical imaging
- Medicine
- Ophthalmology
- Oncology (medical and radiation)
- Reproduction
- Small animal rehabilitation
- Surgery

Facilities

- Allard Roozen Imaging Suite
- Avian, exotic and wildlife ward and flight pen
- Bovine and equine wards
- Isolation wards
- Large animal handling system
- Nestlé Purina Clinical Nutrition Facility
- Nestlé Purina Dental Suite
- Pet radiation therapy centre
- Pet rehabilitation centre
- Rae-Dawn Arabians Equine ICU and Foal Centre
- Ryan/Dubé Equine Performance Centre



A young canine patient at a WCVN remote spay-neuter clinic in La Ronge, Sask.  Brandon White

2023 Monthly Animal Health Calendar

WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre

Calendar photography

Christina Weese
Brandi Bakken
Dr. Janet Hill
Brandon White
Hayley Hais
Myrna MacDonald
David Leswick

Calendar design

Priddy Design

Exotic birds are always popular with visitors at Vetavision, the WCVM's open house. | 📷 Christina Weese

January 2023



One-and-a-half-year-old Atlas is fully airborne above his older housemate, Apollo (six years old). This beautiful pair of silky windhounds are owned by Vince Hopkins and Elgin McLaren of Saskatoon, Sask. | 📷 Hayley Hais

WCVN VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTRE | UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC: 306-966-7126 | LARGE ANIMAL CLINIC & FIELD SERVICE: 306-966-7178

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (U.S.)	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	February 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28



Dog parks can be fun — but pay attention

Dog parks can be an outlet for our pets to have some fun off-leash and to socialize — but they can also be a danger zone. Some dogs' behaviours are unpredictable: dogs can be bitten, get in fights or be attacked at off-leash parks. Signs of aggression in dogs include hard staring, snarling, growling, lunging, barking, snapping and biting. Aggression between dogs that are unfamiliar to one another can be due to fear, miscommunication or defensive, possessive or territorial behaviours. How can you avoid these incidents? Stay alert, pay attention to other dogs, ensure that your dog responds to basic commands and keep a leash on hand.

February 2023

A newborn calf stands unsteadily beside its watchful mother at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

| 📷 Christina Weese

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	30	31	1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 Family Day (SK, AB, BC, ON)	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4



Septicemia a risk to newborn calves

Newborn calves receive all their immunity passively — meaning they must drink the colostrum (or first milk) from their mothers to receive vital antibodies. Inadequate colostrum intake is one of the main causes of septicemia in calves, whether the colostrum quality is too low or the animal drinks too little or too late (after the first 24 hours of life). Another cause can be the calves' environment, especially if it's contaminated with feces. Septicemia is a systemic disease, meaning that it affects multiple organs such as a calf's heart, lungs and brain. For more details, visit producer.com and search "septicemia" to read WCVN veterinarian Dr. John Campbell's livestock health column.

March 2023



A cow horse on the Garrett Ranch
near Landis, Sask. | 📷 Christina Weese

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1



What is equine strangles?

Strangles (also known as distemper) is a highly contagious disease that affects horses as well as donkeys and mules. It can be spread through horse-to-horse transmission, shared tack or waterers, human activity and other factors. Symptoms of this bacterial upper respiratory tract infection are a loss of appetite, thick yellow nasal discharge, a cough and swollen lymph nodes around the jaw. Treatment includes pain management with antibiotic drugs and monitoring to ensure that the affected horse is drinking and eating. Vaccinating is a preventive measure, but during an outbreak, it's important to be aware of adverse reactions in exposed horses. Visit the American Association of Equine Practitioners (aaep.org) website for more information.

April 2023

A close-up photograph of two young puppies. The puppy in the foreground is brown with floppy ears, looking slightly to the left. The puppy behind it is black and white, partially visible. They are resting on a light-colored, textured surface. A person's hand is visible on the left side of the frame, reaching towards the puppies. The background is blurred, showing a red and white patterned object.

A pair of young puppies wait their turn for a wellness visit during a WCVM remote clinic in La Ronge, Sask. |  Brandon White

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Good Friday	8
9 Easter Sunday	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29



Protect your pups against canine parvovirus

Canine parvovirus 2 (CPV-2) or “parvo” is a highly contagious virus that attacks a dog’s gastrointestinal tract. Unvaccinated puppies younger than four months are at high risk for this often-fatal disease. Common symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, a loss of appetite and decreased energy. Continuous bouts of vomiting and diarrhea can lead to severe dehydration in affected dogs. CPV-2 is also a very resilient virus and can live for a long time on surfaces — including kennels, food bowls, leashes, toys and collars. The best way to prevent canine parvovirus is to have your puppy fully vaccinated and to minimize a puppy’s contact with other dogs until the full series of multiple vaccinations is done.

May 2023



A wood duck at the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Delta, B.C. | 📷 Dr. Janet Hill

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Victoria Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Memorial Day (U.S.)	29	30	31	1	2	3



Be on the lookout for avian influenza

Avian influenza virus (AIV) is a contagious viral infection that can affect domestic and wild birds throughout the world. In 2022, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was a serious concern in wild birds, domestic food-producing flocks (chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks and quails) and pet birds. Due to the movement of wild birds and migratory patterns, avian influenza can spread to domestic flocks. Symptoms include lack of energy, nervousness, coughing, swelling or sudden death. If you see suspected cases of the disease in wild or domestic birds, visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website to identify the designated authority in your province. In Saskatchewan, contact the province's Ministry of Environment Inquiry Centre (1-800-567-4224).

A young ginger cat with green eyes is sitting on a sidewalk, looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred green lawn with some fallen leaves.

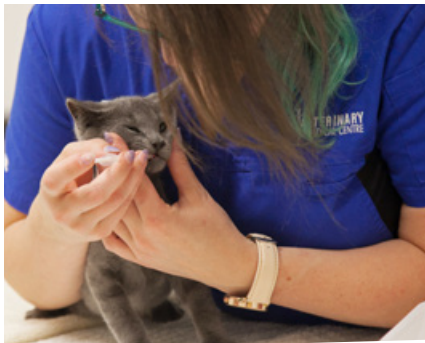
June 2023

A young green-eyed ginger-haired cat blends in well with the scenery. 📷 Christina Weese

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July 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Father's Day	19	20	21 National Indigenous Peoples Day	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1



The importance of deworming your cat

Guarding your cat against parasites is essential to their health and your own. Roundworms (also known as ascarids) are the most common cat parasite and affect anywhere from 25 to 75 per cent of animals. The most common species is *Toxocara cati*, which can also infect people. Cats are most likely infected with *T. cati* by ingesting eggs passed in the feces of infected animals or by eating rodents carrying the parasite. While adult cats generally have more resistance, young animals are much more vulnerable. To avoid infection, kittens should be dewormed when they're three to four weeks old — a treatment that should be repeated every two weeks until they're three months old and then continued every month until they're six months of age.

July 2023

A mare and foal enjoy the sun
in the paddocks behind the
WCVM Veterinary Medical
Centre. 📷 Brandi Bakken

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	26	27	28	29	30	1 Canada Day
2	3	4 Independence Day (U.S.)	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 _____	24 _____	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Iodine deficiency's link to congenital hypothyroidism

During gestation, unborn foals depend on the iodine transfer from their mothers to properly develop their thyroid glands. Iodine-deficient foals can be born with devastating abnormalities that are part of a disease called congenital hypothyroidism. Foals with this condition are born with an enlarged thyroid gland, protruding lower jaw, contracted tendons and abnormal knee and hock bones. Unfortunately, there's not much information present about this issue in horses on the Prairies. WCVF professor Dr. Claire Card and her research team are conducting multiple studies to learn more about the disease and how to prevent it. To learn more, visit the Townsend Equine Health Research Fund website (tehrf.ca) and search "congenital hypothyroidism."

August 2023



Agnes, a mixed-breed rescue dog, buries
her nose in leaves. | 📷 Dave Leswick

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September 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Civic holiday (MB, SK, AB, BC, NU, NT)	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2



Do your dogs dig?

If your dogs are often digging holes in the soil, watch for blastomycosis (also known as “blasto”). The illness is caused by a fungus called *Blastomyces dermatitidis* that transmits spores when soil disturbances occur. Dogs can inhale these airborne spores, or they can be absorbed through the skin. The first symptoms of blastomycosis are often skin lesions and respiratory issues. Dogs diagnosed with the illness usually recover, but a relapse is possible. Blastomycosis is treated using antifungal medications for several months or oxygen therapy if the illness is severe. The only way to prevent a blastomycosis infection is to avoid areas where spores may be present, such as water, decomposing matter or recently disturbed construction sites.

A large herd of beef cattle, mostly with white faces and chests and reddish-brown bodies, are streaming down a dry, grassy hillside. A person in a green jacket is visible in the background, herding the cattle. The background features trees with autumn foliage under a clear blue sky.

September 2023

Beef cattle stream down a fall hillside at Garrett Ranch near Landis, Sask. |  Christina Weese

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October 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4 Labour Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



Summer pneumonia

While most people associate pneumonia with weaned calves in the feedlot, the disease can also affect nursing calves on pasture. Summer pneumonia or enzootic pneumonia can affect young calves during their first few months of life, and its effects can be severe. With cow-calf pairs on pasture, it's often difficult to detect a sick animal, and the disease is often complicated by a secondary bacterial infection. Any factors affecting the calves' immunity – such as poor quality colostrum or exposure to other diseases — can contribute to pneumonia outbreaks. To prevent disease, veterinarians recommend vaccinating calves with a respiratory vaccine before turnout to pasture. For more details, visit producer.com and search “summer pneumonia” to read WCVN veterinarian Dr. John Campbell's livestock health column.



October 2023

Registered veterinary technologist Heather Desjardin and medical oncology resident Dr. Alison Williams sit with Ben, owned by Sheila Janzen. |  Christina Weese

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Thanksgiving Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween	1	2	3	November 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



Happy RVT Month and Animal Health Week!

During the month of October, registered veterinary technologists and technicians (RVTs) across Canada are celebrating RVT Month, which is annually organized by Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada (RV TTC). RVTs work in all areas of veterinary medicine, including dentistry, anesthesia, exotic animals, research and medical imaging. Some of their tasks include taking X-rays, preparing anesthetic drugs for surgeries and administering medication to hospital in-patients. During the same month, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and veterinary professionals across the country celebrate Animal Health Week (Oct. 1-7, 2023). This annual event highlights important health-related issues and promotes proper health and responsible animal ownership across the veterinary community. For more details, visit the CVMA website.

November 2023

Fourth-year WCV
veterinary students
examine George, a Fjord
gelding, at Elevation
Equestrian near Saskatoon,
Sask. | 📷 Christina Weese

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Remembrance Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2



Standing equine MRIs useful in challenging lameness cases

An equine standing MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) unit allows medical imaging specialists to scan the equine foot and lower limb while the sedated horse is standing. The highly sensitive imaging modality is ideal for diagnosing forelimb lameness of varying grades. Veterinarians often recommend an equine standing MRI exam when X-rays are inconclusive or when the area can't be examined using ultrasonography. It's also effective in cases where there's a poor response to treatment, after a penetrating foot wound, and after acute onset of lameness during exercise. As well, MRI exams work well for diagnosing soft tissue injury secondary to fracture, early detection of bone fractures, and for pre-purchase screening.

December 2023

A photograph of a large white sheep with orange markings and its newborn lamb with red and blue markings, standing in a field of straw. The sheep is on the left, looking towards the right. The lamb is in the foreground, facing the sheep. The background is a field of straw with another sheep visible in the distance.

A ewe and her newborn lamb are part of the WCVN's neonatal small ruminant clinical rotation.  Christina Weese

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January 2024 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Christmas Eve 24 New Year's Eve 31	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30



Guarding against gastrointestinal parasites in sheep

A new website launched by the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) aims to inform people of the latest research results and how to best manage parasite control in sheep flocks. Since 2014, the UCVM and researchers at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) — including associate professor Dr. Fabienne Uehlinger — have done studies to determine different parasites affecting sheep flocks in Western Canada. The website also highlights gastrointestinal parasites, dewormers, deworming resistance and how to delay resistance. To learn more about sheep parasites, go to vet.ucalgary.ca and search “sheep parasite control.”

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WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre

To book an appointment, call:

Small Animal Clinic | 306-966-7126

Large Animal Clinic | 306-966-7178

Field Service | 306-966-7178



For more information,
visit vmc.usask.ca

