



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Veterinary Medical Centre

WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
VMC.USASK.CA

# 2022 Monthly Animal Health Calendar

WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre

# Bring your animals to us!

Located on the University of Saskatchewan campus, the WCVM 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](http://vmc.usask.ca) for more information.

## Services

- Accredited pharmacy
- Anesthesia
- Avian, exotic and wildlife medicine and surgery
- 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
- 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 newborn lamb makes its debut during the WCVM's neonatal small ruminant clinical rotation for senior veterinary students.

 Christina Weese





# 2022 Monthly Animal Health Calendar


WCVM Veterinary  
Medical Centre

**Calendar Photography:**

Christina Weese, Lindsay Royale,  
David Leswick, Caitlin Taylor,  
Rigel Smith, Myrna MacDonald

**Calendar Design:**

Priddy Design

A young paint foal in the pasture at the farm  
of Shirley and Jack Brodsky. |  [Christina Weese](#)




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# January 2022



Gary, a terrier-mixed breed dog, enjoys a fresh layer of snow. |  Christina Weese

**WCVM 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
February 2022 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	27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (U.S.)	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



### Temperature dips increase pets' needs

Frigid temperatures bring special considerations for pet owners – particularly if animals spend a large amount of time outdoors. This means increasing food intake by 20 to 30 per cent, ensuring pets always have access to fresh water (not just snow and ice), and providing adequate shelter. All cats as well as any young, old or infirm pets should be housed indoors. At minimum, outdoor dogs need an insulated dog house, but specific requirements vary. Frostbite and hypothermia can both occur when pets become cold. It's also important to make sure antifreeze and deicing products are kept away from pets, as they are toxic to cats and dogs.

# February 2022



WCVM large animal medicine specialist Dr. Tiago Afonso (left) and WCVM resident Dr. Nicole van der Vossen examine a member of the college's teaching herd.

📷 Christina Weese

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Valentine's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Family Day (SK, AB, BC, ON)	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	1	2	3	4	March 2022 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




### Cardiac conditions in horses

Cardiac diseases are rare in horses and clinical signs usually present later in life once the horse's heart can't compensate for the malfunction. By the time a horse shows signs of a cardiac condition, it's been living with the condition for a while. Difficulty exercising, respiratory issues, increased pulse and an abnormal heartbeat are signs of cardiac issues, and if your horse is experiencing these symptoms, contact your veterinarian. Besides listening to your horse's heart, your clinician will conduct an electrocardiogram as well as an exercise test. Another option is an echocardiogram (ultrasound exam of the heart) to evaluate how well the heart is pumping blood. Visit [tinyurl.com/equine-cardiac](http://tinyurl.com/equine-cardiac) for the full story.

# March 2022

A happy canine visitor at  
Saskatoon's Pets in the Park.

 Rigel Smith


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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	April 2022 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



 Caitlin Taylor

### Providing essential service for sick animals

The WCV's Veterinary Medical Centre is equipped to provide the highest quality of care during emergencies and to critically ill animals. As the only 24-hour emergency and critical service in Saskatoon and area, hospital staff are trained to deal with a wide range of situations. The VMC's intensive care unit (ICU) is equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment and provides round-the-clock care for patients. Since these services are in high demand, please expect extended wait times and triaging so clinical teams can prioritize care for the most ill patients. Visit [vmc.usask.ca](http://vmc.usask.ca) (click red "Emergency" button) for more details.

# April 2022



A beef cow and her calf enjoy the morning sunshine at the LFCE's Forage Cow-Calf Research and Teaching Unit.

 Christina Weese

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2022 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	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Good Friday	16
17 Easter Sunday	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



### New calving rotation at the LFCE

A new clinical rotation at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) allows senior veterinary students at the WCVM to participate in a busy calving season at the research facility. Over the two-week rotation, veterinary students work with LFCE staff to help over 400 cows and heifers give birth. Students practise skills such as anticipating the stages of normal birth, identifying when they need to intervene, and learning how to pull a calf during a difficult birth. After calving, students ensure that the newborns are alert and able to stand and drink antibody-rich colostrum (mother's first milk). Tagging, vaccinating and injecting vitamins are also part of daily activities. Visit [tinyurl.com/lfce-calving](https://tinyurl.com/lfce-calving) to read the full story.

# May 2022

Horses graze near Blackstrap Lake,  
south of Saskatoon, Sask.  Christina Weese


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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Mother's Day	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Victoria Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Memorial Day (U.S.)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	June 2022 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




### West Nile virus: prevention is key

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause inflammation or swelling of the brain and spinal cord in horses, birds and people. In horses, the virus causes encephalomyelitis — an infection of the brain and spinal cord. WNV is an immediately notifiable disease in Saskatchewan. Most horses don't develop clinical disease after being bitten by an infected mosquito, but over one third of animals showing clinical disease may die or must be humanely euthanized. Clinical signs include listlessness, weakness of limbs, inability to swallow or stand, loss of co-ordination, fever and death. Protect your horses by vaccinating against WNV each year. Control mosquito populations around your barn with insect repellents and by removing stagnant water (breeding ground for mosquitoes). Fly sheets and fly masks can also help to provide an effective barrier against biting insects.



# June 2022

A young Holstein calf gets a drink at the University of Saskatchewan's Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility.  Christina Weese.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2022 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
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Father's Day		National Indigenous Peoples Day				
26	27	28	29	30	1	2



### Salmonella infections in dairy cattle

*Salmonella Dublin* (*S. Dublin*), a strain of the bacterium *Salmonella enterica*, is an emerging disease in Canada and a concern for dairy farmers. Adult cattle tend not to get sick from this cattle-adapted strain, but it causes serious illness and death in calves. Although it's uncommon, *S. Dublin*-related illness can also occur in people. The only reliable way to ensure that *S. Dublin* infection is eradicated in dairy herds is to take regular blood tests from every animal. WCVN researcher Dr. Chris Luby is working on a more affordable way to test animals. Proposed testing will require dairy producers to collect a fecal sample from each dairy cow on the day she calves — when any infected animal will shed large amounts of salmonella. For more details, visit [tinyurl.com/dairy-salmonella](https://tinyurl.com/dairy-salmonella).

# July 2022

A young kitten ventures out on a  
straw bale stack. |  Christina Weese

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2022 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 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						




### Coughing cats common in colonies

Cats are especially prone to respiratory infections that spread easily in high-density populations such as shelters, breeding facilities and feral cat colonies. Vaccines greatly reduce the chance of severe feline respiratory disease from occurring, but the causative pathogens haven't been eliminated. Fungi, bacteria and viruses can cause these infections. Symptoms of upper respiratory tract infections can include clear or coloured discharge from eyes or nose, coughing, sneezing, swelling of mucus membranes around the eyes, or conjunctivitis, mouth ulcers, lethargy and anorexia. In rare cases, cats may have trouble breathing. Symptoms of lower respiratory tract infection include coughing, lethargy, anorexia and difficult or rapid breathing.



# August 2022

Six-year-old Lexi, a mixed-breed female dog, hangs out at the beach near the Fred Heal Canoe Launch, south of Saskatoon, Sask.  Lindsay Royale

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Civic holiday (MB, SK, AB, BC, NU, NT)	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	September 2022 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




### Pets find a foe in foxtail grasses

Foxtail barley (foxtail) is a type of perennial grass native to the Prairies. It grows across Canada and typically matures in July. Animals, especially dogs and horses, are prone to eating the spiky grass, which can cause respiratory problems or more serious issues. The grasses have spiky barbs that tend to get stuck in fur. Pets can ingest these barbs when licking their skin or if they eat the grass, and barbs can then get caught in the throat or even travel elsewhere inside the body. If pets are retching, gagging or hard swallowing, it's a good idea to have them seen by a veterinarian. To prevent injuries, pet owners can brush and check ears and paws after being outdoors, keep pets on a leash or use a netted muzzle or field guard. Visit [tinyurl.com/foxtail-foe](https://tinyurl.com/foxtail-foe) to read full story.

# September 2022



Beef cattle graze on pasture at Gooddale Farm, part of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

 Christina Weese

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5 Labour Day	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	October 2022 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




### What is 'fog fever'?

Acute bovine pulmonary emphysema (ABPE) or fog fever is a type of pneumonia that's often diagnosed in cattle that are moved from dry, overgrazed pasture to lush pasture in the fall. The trigger is tryptophan, a protein found in rich grass. When cattle are exposed to higher tryptophan levels in lush pasture and bacteria in their rumen are not gradually adapted to this protein, it creates a toxin that circulates in the bloodstream, which leads to a severe, untreatable respiratory syndrome. To prevent fog fever, avoid moving cattle abruptly from dry pasture to lush pasture. Make a more gradual move, supplement the herd's feed during the transition and, if possible, limit the animals' grazing time on new pasture. Visit [tinyurl.com/fog-fever](https://tinyurl.com/fog-fever) to read the full column written by WCVN researcher Dr. John Campbell.



# October 2022

Bruno, an eight-year-old male golden retriever, enjoys a pat on the head from his young owner.  David Leswick

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2022 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	26 October is National RVT (registered veterinary technologists) month.	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Thanksgiving Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					



### Prevent dog bites

Over half a million dog bites occur each year in Canada and children make up half of the bite victims. Most bites are from dogs owned by family and friends, and many of the injuries happen because of children's actions. To prevent dog bites from occurring, watch for signals: frequent lip-licking, yawning, showing a "half-moon" eye, stretching or body shaking are all signs of stress in a dog. As an owner, make sure to socialize your dog, invest in basic training, and provide your pet with a safe haven from noise. As a parent, constant monitoring is critical: never leave a child alone with a dog and never assume that a dog will tolerate a child's actions. Visit [tinyurl.com/petedtalks](https://tinyurl.com/petedtalks) to view a WCVN PetED Talk on dog bite prevention.



# November 2022

A horse and rider  
compete in a  
western class at  
the Prince Albert  
Exhibition.

 Myrna MacDonald

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	24 Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	December 2022 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




### Cresty necks flag metabolic issues in horses

Researchers compare equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) to human type 2 diabetes because both are characterized by obesity and insulin resistance. While scientists are still hunting for a diagnostic biomarker to predict EMS, a recent WCVN study confirms that the cresty neck score (CNS) is a reliable visual marker of abnormal insulin metabolism in horses. Fat deposits along the crest or upper curve of a horse's neck tend to develop in ponies and other breeds. Owners need to regularly observe horses for deviations from their ideal weight, especially looking for cresty necks and other localized fat deposits. Visit [tinyurl.com/cresty-necks](https://tinyurl.com/cresty-necks) for the full story.

# December 2022



After his surgery, Ace was fostered by WCVM graduate student Karoliná Steinerová and her partner.

 Lindsay Royale

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



### Ace is all right, thanks to fund

In 2021, Ace was surrendered to the Northern Animal Rescue (NAR) group in La Ronge, Sask. During a WCVm spay-neuter clinic, veterinary students noticed that the healthy young dog had a limp. Further testing confirmed that Ace had a chronic fracture at the top of his femur and needed surgery. The WCVm's Les and Irene Dubé Good Samaritan Fund accepted Ace's case, and thanks to the generous support of donors, he's living a pain-free life with his new family in Saskatoon, Sask. Visit [tinyurl.com/ace-good-samaritan](https://tinyurl.com/ace-good-samaritan) to read the full story.

# 2022 Monthly Animal Health Calendar

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

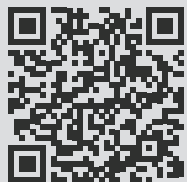
## Additional information:

VMC Client Experience

[vmc.info@usask.ca](mailto:vmc.info@usask.ca) | 306-966-8795


VMC Business Office

[vmc.finance@usask.ca](mailto:vmc.finance@usask.ca) | 306-966-7103



For more information,  
visit [vmc.usask.ca](http://vmc.usask.ca)

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to complete our client  
experience survey:  
[vmc.usask.ca/survey.php](http://vmc.usask.ca/survey.php)

Cover: *Wasabi*.  Rigel Smith

