



Pre-Vet Newsletter

December 2014

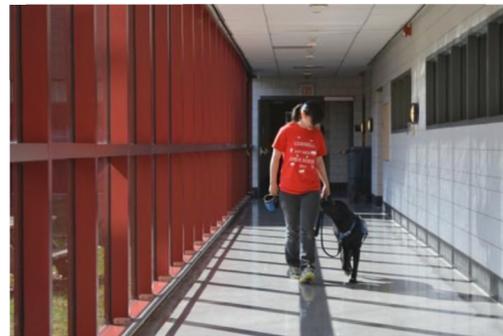


Applicants to the Class of 2019

Thank you to all who completed an application to our Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program this year!

We understand applicants are anxious to know when they might hear from us regarding their application, so we are providing a timetable that covers the next few months on the third page of this newsletter.

Volunteers from across the College train tomorrow's service dogs



It takes alert aplomb, disciplined maturity, patient empathy, and at times, vigilant leadership-- the ability to read and react to new potentially dangerous situations while protecting your charge. These qualities could well describe the ideal dog owner, but they also serve as essential requirements for a special kind of dog.

People from different walks of life across the College have assumed the challenge of instilling these qualities into puppies training to become service dogs. College faculty, staff, and

veterinary students form a growing network of volunteers across Cornell who raise puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind (GEB). This internationally accredited nonprofit breeds and trains service dogs to enrich the lives of visually impaired people by providing the freedom to travel safely.



“Our goal is to raise confident, well-mannered pups,” said Frances Chen ’16, a DVM/PhD combined degree student who has raised guide dog puppies since middle school, helped kindle the nation’s second undergraduate club for GEB volunteers at Cornell, and recently started a second club for veterinary students at the College. “It’s a time-consuming responsibility for students, who are highly motivated and ambitious in many aspects of their DVM education, to become certified puppy sitters. But feedback I’ve gotten from peers has been encouraging. They are learning about canine behavior and the roles that veterinarians can play in nonprofit service dog organizations while contributing to the upbringing of dogs that are invaluable to the people they end up helping.”

Since starting the College’s chapter in Spring 2013, Chen has trained seven veterinary students as puppy sitters,

adding to the ranks of an existing network of certified sitters and raisers at the College. It includes a diverse range of people, from incoming graduate student Alyssa Wetterwau and research scientist Dr. Kim Holloway to veterinary technician Deb Watrous and Sr. Research Associate Dr. Rod Getchell, PhD ’02, the club’s faculty advisor.

“I’ve owned many dogs from reputable breeders, but there’s nothing like a GEB puppy,” said Watrous. “Their socialization starts at day one and their skills are already advanced by the time we raisers get them. It’s our responsibility to teach them manners and get them out in different scenarios. It’s important for them to be flexible and adaptable, see different sights, hear different sounds, and learn to properly meet people.”



Raisers get puppies at eight weeks of age and return them to GEB at 16-18 months. During that time they are responsible for the puppies’ health, house and people manners, and following a training curriculum provided through weekly classes offered by regional GEB instructors. When the puppies return to GEB, they undergo behavioral qualification testing and, if they pass, six months of official

Admissions Timetable

Admissions Decisions will be sent out **early January 2015**. Applicants will receive an email directing them to their **Tracking Page** with a PIN Number that will allow them to access their decision letter.

Applicants who are made an offer of admission or an alternate offer will be invited to an *Information Session* (option to choose one of the four dates to attend).

These dates are **TENTATIVE**:

- ❖ January 30, 2015
- ❖ February 6, 2015
- ❖ February 13, 2015
- ❖ February 20, 2015

It is extremely important for all admitted students and alternates to attend one of these Information Sessions.

Additional Dates to consider:

- ❖ Deadline to submit Financial Aid applications is February 1, 2015
- ❖ Deadline for Dean's Certification is March 15, 2015
- ❖ Deadline to notify the Admissions Office of decision regarding offer of admission is April 15, 2015
- ❖ Final Transcripts (including all outstanding prerequisite course work) are due by June 15, 2015; Fall transcripts are not required but are welcome to send in to have Tracking Page updated with course work

guide dog training before being matched with their visually impaired partner.

The Cornell undergraduate club Chen helped start in 2009 has blossomed into a growing organization of more than 150 members, hosting as many as 17 dogs on campus at any given day. Its president, incoming veterinary student Alyssa Cornelius '18, is bringing Cornell's model to other campuses across the region, creating startup guides for other leaders and consulting for burgeoning campus clubs.

"The organizations Frances started at Cornell have been ground-breakers," said Cornelius. "I was ecstatic when I learned of all the GEB training activity at the College. If I look back at my undergrad career, this is the one thing I'd define it by. I found my passion in GEB. To be able to continue that in vet school is exciting. This is a great environment for raising service dogs."



Visit our [web site](#) to hear from Frances about her experiences with Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

One Health

The concept of “One Health” brings together students and professionals from a wide range of **scientific** disciplines to benefit the health and well-being of humans, animals, and the environment by focusing on the relationships between these fields. Various symposia at Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine foster education and collaboration in One Health.

“The knowledge of various disease processes continues to grow tremendously,” said Alison Keggan ’17, who attended. “It’s interesting to learn about various pathogens veterinarians work with and the human impact of their spread.”

This year the College hosted the 15th Annual Merial-NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium. The largest to date, it attracted 620 attendees from ten countries.



This year’s speaker sessions focused on sustainability, genetics, cancer, infectious disease, and the impact of veterinary medicine on both humans and animals in these fields.

The Merial-NIH Symposium also featured a poster session for students to share their research.

“Not only do I get a deeper understanding of my own work through developing a poster in easily explainable ways, but I also get to look at others’ posters, to see what techniques they used and how they can be applied to my own work,” said Valerie Tierney, a veterinary student from University College Dublin.



The College also hosts the Zoonotic Disease Symposium. Organized by the Veterinary Public Health Association, a student organization within the College of Veterinary Medicine, this year’s fifth annual symposium focused on One Health issues in everyday life. It included talks from veterinarians, physicians, and scientists to provide insight into raw dairy products, organic meats, backyard poultry, antibiotic resistance, and vector-borne diseases. It also emphasized the power of the human-animal bond that can promote people’s wellbeing.

“Our expert speakers represent many different disciplines,” said Kimberly Leidl ’16, who led planning. “Their convergence here to discuss One Health highlights the importance of

multidisciplinary approaches to public health issues. We planned the lectures, activities, and round-table discussions to promote awareness of One Health issues in our immediate surroundings and encourage people to approach these issues from a multidisciplinary standpoint.”



In one highlight of the event, Dr. Noha Abou-Madi, a section chief of Zoological Medicine, led a hands-on lab in which attendees could rotate through various stations where they learned helpful tips including how to safely handle backyard pests, care for yards to reduce tick exposure, and protect children from dangerous exposure to animals.

“The science never ends,” said Alyssa Cornelius ’18, an attendee. “There are always new discoveries and advances being made. Participating in symposia keeps us updated on the newest research and methods in veterinary medicine. I learned that there is much to be gained from collaboration between human doctors and veterinarians. The union between their fields offers more benefits than I previously imagined and has opened my mind to the possibilities of multidisciplinary collaborations.”

by Mike Carroll

Cornell on the Road

A representative will be attending the following programs this Spring 2015:

- **AAVMC Career Fair**
Sunday March 15, 2015
(Washington, DC)
- **APVMA Symposium
College Fair**
Saturday, March 28, 2015
(The Ohio University)

Open House

**Saturday, April 11, 2015
10:00-4:00**

Open House is a day-long event held each April that is run by students. Exhibits and information booths are set up to educate the public about animals in general, pet care, wildlife, and just about anything else that is related to veterinary medicine. Popular attractions include the painted horse and cow, large animal exercise treadmill, cow milking, baby animals, and many others. Admissions presentations with a DVM student panel will be held 3 times during the Open House.

Pre-Vet Club Meetings

Would your club like to learn more about Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and the DVM admissions process? There are options to meet *virtually*. If you have video conference capability or can Skype™, then we can meet!

Contact Jennifer Mailey, Director of Admissions to schedule a date and time vet_admissions@cornell.edu.