

January 2025 CVMB Announcement
UC Davis Student Liaison

Hello, and thank you as always for welcoming me to the board. I apologize for not being able to attend in person or online since I have junior surgery this week. When you hear this announcement I will likely be closing up after a canine ovariohysterectomy, so that's fun!

Today I wanted to keep my announcement relatively concise since poor Anna will have to read it all for me. The main topics will be: UC Davis latest news, Class of 2026's official tracking emphasis, and as always, I will go over opportunities for interested veterinarians to help out with UC Davis mentorship and access to care clinics.

In December, some key events from 2024 were reported to celebrate achievements made by the school. I thought I'd highlight two of them here to give you all some updates about what UC Davis is up to.

First, Dr. Terza Brostoff and her research team have successfully created an mRNA vaccine for FIP. Only one other vaccine had previously been developed nearly 40 years ago and it was not widely used due to the potential for antibody-dependent enhancement, a problem seen in immunized cats that can worsen effects of the disease. This new vaccine targets structural proteins inside the virus and does not cause this issue. Results from this research and development have been published in the medical journal, *Vaccines* and they are currently seeking funding for clinical studies in kittens.

As a second and final 2024 highlight, UC Davis' School of Vet Med partnered with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to form a program in response to increasing concern over the H5N1 Avian Influenza outbreak. This program provides testing to protect animal health and performance as well as public health and the Californian food supply. This partnership is another reminder of the importance of veterinary professionals and researchers in the overall interconnectedness of animal, human and environmental health referred to as "One Health".

Next, I thought I'd revisit the topic of where vet students are headed in the field by discussing the final tracking of my class, the class of 2026. As many of you know, UC Davis allows students in their third and fourth years of veterinary school to track a more specific species route. Students can pick between a focus on large or small animal medicine in their third year and then focus further on a specific species of interest for their fourth year. Here are the numbers currently:

- 146 total students
- 118 small animal students
 - Within this group there are students interested in shelter medicine, exotic pocket pet medicine, and specialization in areas such as internal medicine and cardiology. There are no specific numbers for the small animal groups but having collected a few anecdotal surveys, the majority are interested in private practice with a large number also interested in shelter medicine.

- 28 total large animal students
 - 39% wildlife/zoo (with many individuals interested in pathology)
 - 32% livestock (me :))
 - 28% equine

I will hopefully be able to update you on the class of 2027's potential tracking at our next meeting in April.

Finally, I just wanted to repeat the same old message I always do: UC Davis would love to have your help! There are two areas that we are always looking for more veterinarian assistance. First, as mentors in our doctoring course teaching client communication (especially large animal vet mentors!!) and second, as supervising veterinarians at our access to care clinics all over northern CA including Knight's Landing, Sacramento, and Covelo. If you are interested please reach out to me (I am adding my email address below) and I will immediately get you in contact with the right people.

Thank you for your time,

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