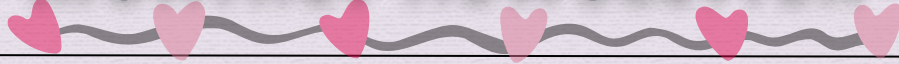


# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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ISSUE 20

<https://cpvma.ca>

FEBRUARY 2026

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The monthly newsletter is your go-to source for all things CPVMA. Stay connected with event updates, read articles of inspiring experiences shared by pre-vet and current vet students, new opportunities for animal experience. Keep up with our news and highlights to empower your journey into veterinary medicine. All our newsletters will be available to read in our Newsletter Archives on our website. Thank you for being a part of our community!



## Highlights of this issue:

- **New Website Announcement**
- **Executive Feature of the Month**
- **Article of the month**



## Executive Team Updates

The CPVMA Executive Team is excited to announce the launch of our new website, [cpvma.ca](https://cpvma.ca), created by our Media Team to make it easier to access event updates, newsletter archives, and our merch store. This month, we also highlight Wendy Zhao, our Junior VP of Outreach, who shares her experiences in veterinary medicine and offers valuable advice for pre-vet students on gaining diverse experience and maintaining balance. Thank you to our executive team for their continued dedication to supporting and connecting the pre-veterinary community across Canada.

Canadian Pre-Veterinary Medical  
Association

L'Association canadienne des  
pré-médecins vétérinaires

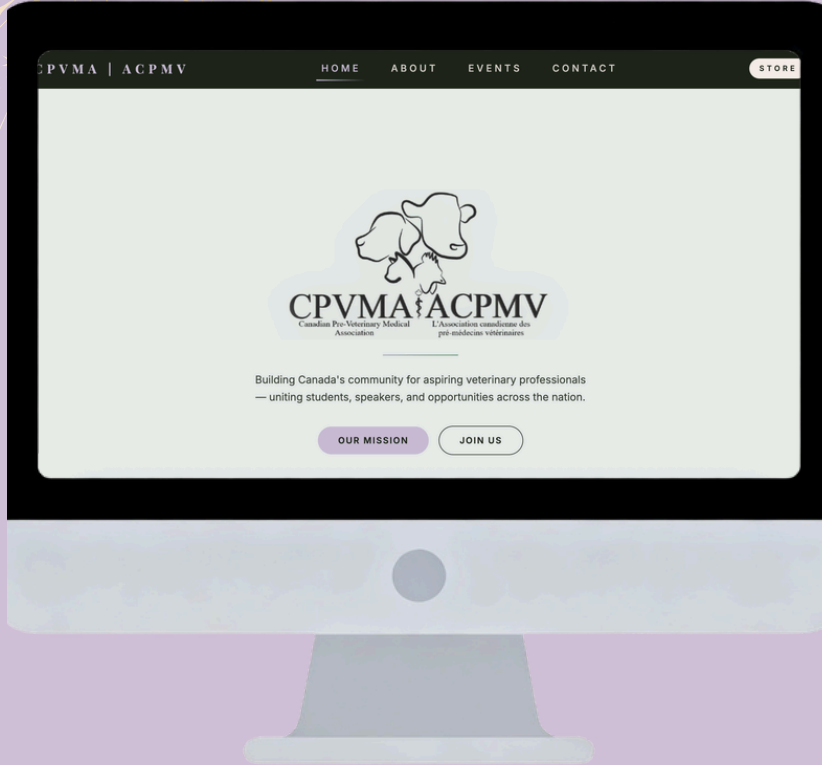
# THE CPVMA HAS EXCITING NEWS...

WE HAVE NOW LAUNCHED OUR...

# ***NEW WEBSITE!***

Our Media team has been hard at work designing a new website! Check it out to stay up to date with all things CPVMA and to find our merch store!

**CPVMA.CA**



# Executive Feature

WENDY ZHAO: JR. VP OF OUTREACH



Hi everyone! I'm Wendy Zhao, and I am a first-year Health Sciences student at Queen's University. The program has been a really exciting experience. Learning anatomy and physiology has helped me better understand many of the concepts I encountered in clinics, making my learning feel immediately relevant. The blended format of our core courses also gives me the flexibility to spend time on hands-on veterinary experiences and other extracurriculars, which has been invaluable!

During high school, I completed a co-op placement at a small animal general practice, where I assisted with patient restraint, surgeries, and supported day-to-day clinic operations. Being part of a clinical team showed me how science, communication, and compassion intersect in patient care, and it confirmed that this was the field I wanted to pursue. I later worked as a veterinary assistant in China over the summer, which gave me a broader perspective on veterinary medicine in a different cultural context. I was fortunate to learn a lot of new tasks and procedures, such as running in-house labs, laparoscopy and gastroscopy. This experience gave me insight into cultural differences in veterinary medicine, such as clients' attitudes toward preventative care and their perceptions of veterinarians. In addition to small animal practice, I've gained exposure to shelter medicine and large animal medicine, and I'm excited to continue exploring more specialties within veterinary medicine.

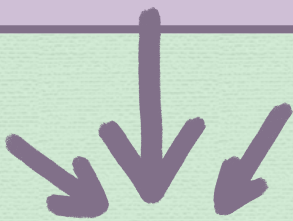
Outside of vet med, I'm a research assistant in a psychology lab, where I contribute to refining study designs, collecting data, and guiding participants. Combining my multicultural background with both my clinical and research experiences has sparked a growing interest in how cultural cues, such as professional attire, may influence clients' perceptions of veterinarians. Through this role, I've developed stronger analytical and interpersonal skills. It has also been exciting to explore psychology more deeply and understand how cognitive and social processes shape behaviour. It has reinforced the value of interdisciplinary learning, and I've come to appreciate how insights from psychology can meaningfully inform communication and trust in clinical settings.

## **Advice for Pre-Vet Students:**

Coursework and animal experience are essential, but remember to pursue interests outside of vet med. Developing skills beyond clinical settings not only makes you a more well-rounded applicant but also strengthens qualities like communication, adaptability, and time management. Veterinary medicine requires balance and resilience, and learning how to manage multiple commitments early will serve you far beyond the application cycle.

# Article of the Month

This month's article focuses on the internet sensation, "Punch", a baby monkey who went viral in the media after videos circulated of him seeking comfort in a stuffed orangutan. Zookeepers gave Punch this orangutan shortly after being abandoned by his mother. Visitors have noticed Punch clutching it after being pushed away by other monkeys. These videos of Punch have prompted questions about why animals abandon their young. This article explains that in Punch's case, his mother was a first-time mother, and he was born in a heatwave. Inexperience, coupled with a high stress environment can increase the likelihood of abandonment. If the environment is not favorable to survival of the infant, the mother may prioritize her health and future instead of the infant's. Zookeepers note that while Punch was abandoned by his mother he is still learning to socialize with the other monkeys and has been comforted by other monkeys in the zoo!





# The Canadian Pre-Veterinary Medical Association

## WHO ARE WE?

The CPVMA is a student-led, non-profit organization that aims to connect the pre-veterinary community across Canada. Our goal is to provide resources to pre-veterinary students and give them the opportunity to network with fellow peers and professionals in the field.

## OUR EVENTS

- Held online and accessible from anywhere in Canada
- Feature veterinary professionals and current veterinary students
- Prepare pre-veterinary students for success in their future!

## SPONSORS NEEDED!!

The CPVMA is made possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact us at [cpvma.acpmv@gmail.com](mailto:cpvma.acpmv@gmail.com).

## STAY INFORMED!

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