



The Canadian Pre-Veterinary Medical Association

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 20

— <https://cpvma.ca> —

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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:

- Exec Feature of the Month
- Trivia Night
- Volunteer Opportunity
- Symposium Save the Date!
- Article of the Month



Executive Team Updates

This month's Executive Team Update features Darcy Owen, a first-year Animal Health student at the University of Alberta and a CPVMA Executive and University Delegate who is passionate about supporting pre-vet students. We invite everyone to join our upcoming trivia event, get involved by volunteering with our subcommittee teams, and save the date for our annual symposium. Our Article of the Month highlights new research showing that Antarctic penguins are shifting their breeding seasons earlier—by up to three weeks—likely due to climate change, a change that could affect chick survival, species competition, and the balance of the Antarctic ecosystem.

By your Sr. VP of Public Relations

CPVMA & ACPMV
Canadian Pre-Veterinary Medical Association L'Association canadienne des pré-médecins vétérinaires

Executive Feature of the Month: Darcy



Hi Everyone! My name is Darcy Owen, I am in my first year of Animal Health, majoring in performance and companion animals at the University of Alberta. It is my goal as a CPVMA executive and delegate to help pre-vet students find the support and resources they need to succeed. Throughout my academic journey, I have sought out diverse, hands-on experiences that have allowed me to work with a wide range of species while developing practical clinical skills and a deeper understanding of animal care across different settings.

I have been fortunate to gain meaningful experience through my involvement with the Canadian Animal Task Force, where I volunteered both in shelter environments in Calgary and in high-volume spay and neuter clinics serving underserved Indigenous communities. These experiences were especially impactful, as they highlighted the importance of accessible veterinary care and the role veterinarians play in supporting both animal welfare and community health. Working in fast-paced clinic settings strengthened my adaptability, teamwork, and appreciation for efficient, compassionate care.

In addition to this work, I volunteer at a mixed animal veterinary practice, where I assist with the care of cats, dogs, and large animals such as horses. Through this role, I gained exposure to diagnostics and patient assessment. I am also an avid participant in poultry research at the University of Alberta, further expanding my technical skills and comfort working with non-companion animal species in a research environment.

Beyond clinical and research experience, I am actively involved in leadership within the pre-veterinary community. I currently serve as an executive member of my university's Pre-Vet Club, where I help support and engage students interested in pursuing veterinary medicine. I am also the University Delegate for the Canadian Pre-Veterinary Medical Association, a role that allows me to connect my peers with national opportunities and resources while advocating for pre-vet students at a broader level. Through these experiences, I have developed a strong appreciation for the diversity of veterinary medicine and the value of service, leadership, and lifelong learning within the profession. I am excited to continue building on these experiences as I work toward a future career in veterinary medicine.

My advice to pre-vet students:


Stay open-minded and explore a variety of experiences. Veterinary medicine is more diverse than many people realize, and hands-on exposure will help you discover what you truly enjoy. Get involved outside the classroom, seek mentorship, and don't feel pressured to have everything figured out right away, every experience contributes to your growth, and there is no absolute right way to reach your goals. Veterinary medicine is more than diagnosing and treating, it is a field that employs empathy and communication.

UPCOMING EVENT




Join us for CPVMA's Trivia Night!

Test your animal and veterinary medicine knowledge in a fun, fast-paced online trivia event. This event's central theme is One Health & Pet Pop Culture! Play solo or team up with friends over Zoom!

 Prize for the top scorer

 A relaxed, engaging night of learning and laughs

 Perfect for animal lovers, students, and vet med enthusiasts

Date: February 7th at 6:30 pm EST

Stay tuned for updates on our Instagram!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Interested in volunteering with the CPVMA?

We'd love to have you on our Media, Events, Sponsorship, or monthly roles subcommittee team! Fill out the volunteer application form on the CPVMA website and send your application to cpvma.acpmv@gmail.com!

Events Subcommittee

The events subcommittee will lead the planning of the 2026 CPVMA Symposium and support other CPVMA events throughout the year to ensure their success.

Sponsorship Subcommittee

The Sponsorship subcommittee is responsible for reaching out to sponsors, responding to emails, and assisting the VPs to ensure the symposium and other upcoming CPVMA events run smoothly.

Media Subcommittee

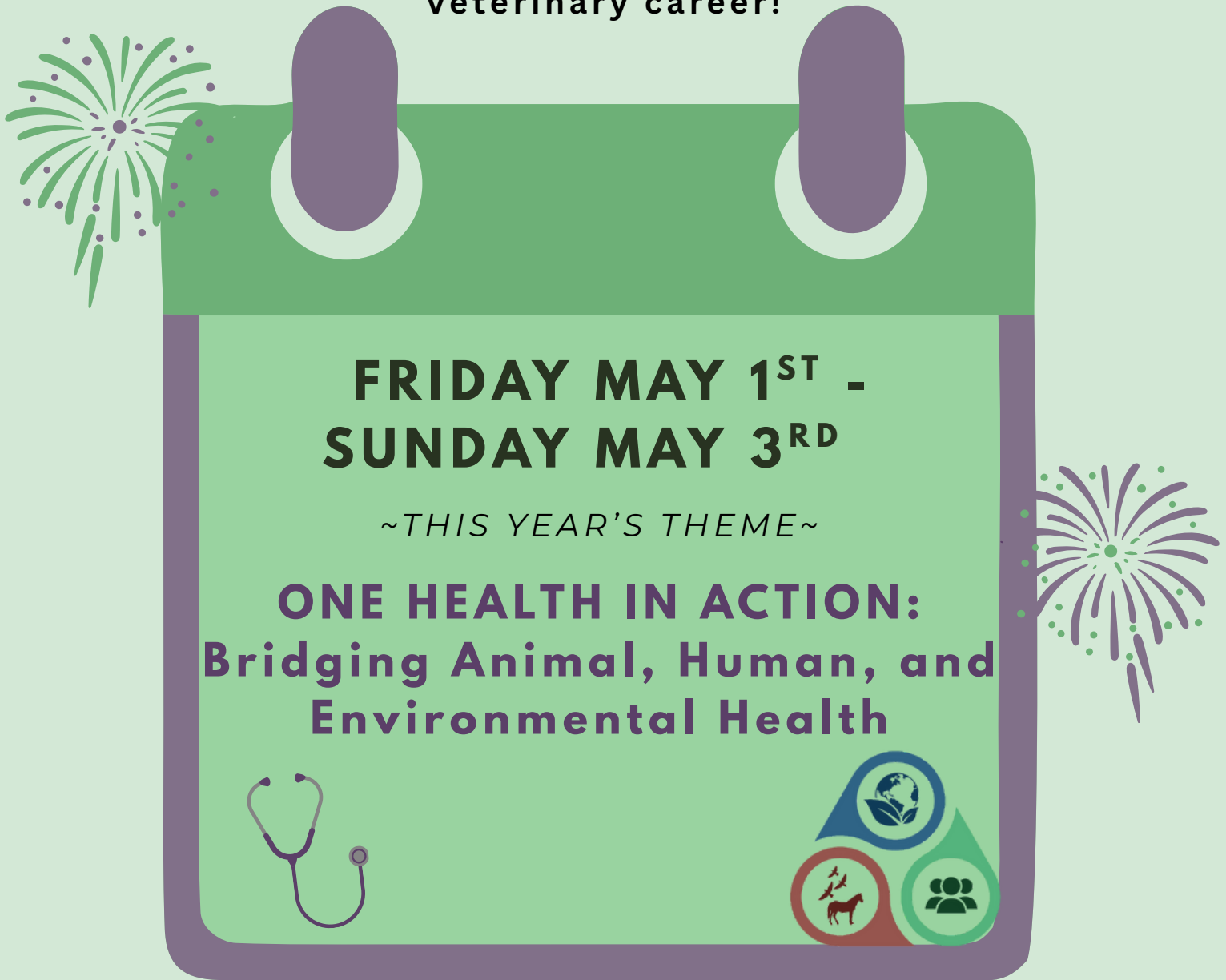
The Media subcommittee is a new initiative within CPVMA, designed to share engaging veterinary medicine content through digital platforms.

Monthly Roles (Rotation-Based)

- Spotlight Creator
- Experience & Skills Creator
- Newsletter Promotor
- Content Reviewer

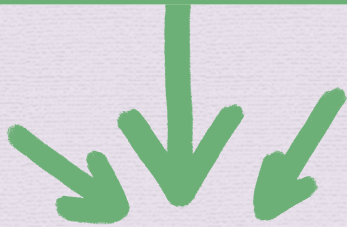
SAVE THE DATE!

The CPVMA Team is excited to announce the date and theme of this year's symposium! Join us via vFairs for a weekend filled with interactive activities and inspiring guest speakers! This event is perfect for anyone interested in a veterinary career!



Article of the Month

The article explains that scientists have found Antarctic penguins are shifting their breeding seasons earlier, in some cases by up to three weeks—and that these changes are likely linked to climate change. This discovery comes from a decade-long study using time-lapse cameras on penguin colonies, tracking how three species—the gentoo, Adélie, and chinstrap penguins are adjusting their breeding timing. The researchers warn this shift could be problematic because penguins rely on precise timing: chicks need to hatch when food (like krill) is abundant. If breeding happens too early, chicks may miss peak food availability, which could hurt survival rates. Additionally, the shift may change how the species compete with each other. Gentoo penguins are adapting more quickly and could out-compete the other two species for food and nesting space, which could disrupt the Antarctic ecosystem.





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.

STAY INFORMED!

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