

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The first issue of the 37th years of the Thai Journal of Veterinary Medicine is a special issue for the commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University which was established in 1935. We are honoured to have an article from our former Dean, Dr. Songkram Luangtongkum telling us about the history of the veterinary education in Thailand. In addition, Dr. Stanley Done, one of the editorial boards contributes his experiences in the strategies for the control of swine respiratory diseases. We also have a new Ophthalmology snapshot in the diagnostic forum by Dr. Nalinee Tuntivanich, a new editorial board. Last but not least, this issue contains 4 original papers, 1 short communications and 36 abstracts from the 6th Annual Conference of the Faculty

of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University held on April 26-27, 2007.

Again, there is no page charge or processing fee for the authors. We would like to encourage the authors from all over the world who work in the veterinary and animal sciences submitting their work to the TJVM. Your contribution will be acknowledged and referred by our readers in their future manuscripts. Our vet community will be stronger with the solid background of the knowledges that we share through the TJVM. Our editorial board is looking for a new manuscript from you.

Roongroje Thanawongnuwech

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The image is a screenshot of the website for The Thai Journal of Veterinary Medicine. The header features a blue circular logo on the left and the journal's name in both Thai and English. Below the header, there's a navigation bar with links to various sections like 'Editorial Board', 'Instructions to Authors', 'Archive', and 'Search Journal'. The main content area shows the 'Current issue' (Vol 25 No. 4) with links to 'Table of Contents' and 'Editor's Note'. It also includes a link to download the full text in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. A 'Q&A' section and a 'Veterinary Continuing Education' box are visible. On the right side, there are sections for 'Download Forms' (with links to 'Advertisement Contract' and 'Subscription Form'), 'Mailing Address' (with a detailed address in Thailand), and 'The Thai Journal of Veterinary Medicine' (with contact information for the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University). A 'Telephone, Fax and e-mail' section at the bottom right provides contact details.

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สำนักวิชาชีวศาสตร์ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย ถนนสีลม แขวงสีลม กรุงเทพฯ 10330

The Thai Journal of Veterinary Medicine

Faculty of Veterinary Science
Chulalongkorn University
Henri Dunant Rd., Bangkok 10330
Thailand

Telephone, Fax and e-mail

Tel +66(0)2-218-9554-7
Fax +66(0)2-255-8853
e-mail : tjvm@chula.ac.th

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Editorial

Veterinary Education and Professional Development in Thailand

**In commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the Faculty of Veterinary Science,
Chulalongkorn University**

A four-year veterinary degree program was first started in Thailand in 1935 at Chulalongkorn University. The autonomous Veterinary Department was established under the University Act of 1934. The four-year veterinary curriculum was revised and expanded to five-year and six-year in 1939 and 1957 respectively. The first building housing the Veterinary Department was constructed at the corner of Phayathai Road in 1938, the same site as the present Ratvidhi Nursing School. The academic status of "Veterinary Department" was changed to the "Faculty of Veterinary Science" in 1942 and transferred to the Medical Science University, Ministry of Public Health in the same year. Professor Luang Chai Asavaraks was appointed the first dean. In 1951, owing to the limitation of space and facilities, the Faculty was moved from Phayathai Road to no. 39, Henri Dunant Road, formerly Sanam Mah Road. Kindly supported by Dean Professor Luang Vach Vidyavaddhana, the Faculty of Veterinary Science was allowed to share the space with the Faculty of Dentistry. Later on, the Faculty of Veterinary Science was transferred from the Medical Science University, Ministry of Public Health to Kasetsart University which affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture in 1959.

In 1964, Chulalongkorn University decided to reunite the four established medical science faculties, i.e., Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Veterinary Science. For the Faculty of Veterinary Science, its ultimate goal was achieved when it was transferred back to Chulalongkorn University by a Royal Decree of October 15, 1967.

Since then there have been two separated veterinary faculties, one at Chulalongkorn University and the other at Kasetsart University.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science at Chulalongkorn University has had a college farm or field station in Nakhon Pathom Province for teaching about farm animals since 1968. Since then, this field station is regarded as a prototype for farm animals teaching of veterinary schools established in Thailand after the year 1968. In 1972, all state universities had to be transferred from the Office of the Prime Minister to the Ministry of University Affairs and later on, in 2003 to the Ministry of Education, owing to government reforms.

The livestock industries, particularly poultry and swine, have been steadily growing since 1966, and this factor together with the government's policy for strengthening higher education in all regions of the country, had led to the establishment of two more Veterinary Faculties at Khon Kaen University and Chiang Mai University in 1986 and 1994, respectively. The first private veterinary school was established at Mahanakorn University of Technology in 1992. In addition to the growth of the poultry and swine industries, shrimp, prawn and fish industries have also boomed in terms of both export and local consumption, corresponding with the rapid national economic growth. In 1989, the marked shortage of qualified veterinary graduates was pointed out and the government set up a long-term plan over 15-years for increasing graduates in various deficit fields.

The long-term plan for increasing veterinary graduates was initiated in 1989, but the project which would run continuously for 15 years was started in 1990. It was the peak development of the Veterinary Faculties of state universities. The aim of the project was to double the number of veterinary students admitted in all Veterinary Faculties within a few years and to improve the quality of teaching by supporting staff development, well-equipped buildings and so forth. Moreover, each faculty devised its own detailed plan for development. The plans were approved by the Cabinet, and the government gave its commitment to support them. The project ran smoothly for the first half of the long-term plan. The first National Veterinary Education Congress was set up in 1995. This led to major changes in curriculum development, such as the provision of more practical training skills as a solid base for the future development of the veterinary profession. The sudden economic crisis of the country in the middle of 1997 caused the termination of long-term projects in all deficit fields. However, having their own resources, veterinary studies in the four Veterinary Faculties of state universities which had been supported during the first half of the plan were able to continue to pursue their aims for future development. Unfortunately, the last Veterinary Faculty at Mahidol University which was established in 1997 was faced with insufficient support at the beginning. Fortunately, it later obtained better support.

At present, there are five Veterinary Faculties at state universities and one at private university. The Faculty of Veterinary Science at Chulalongkorn University, the oldest veterinary faculty in Thailand, will celebrate its 72nd anniversary in April, 2007. More integrated teaching and training in related subjects will be implemented in the academic year 2007 to produce more qualified graduates and skilled veterinarians.

In 2002, the first formal professional “Veterinary Act” was implemented. It can be regarded as a milestone in professional development. According to the Act, the Veterinary Council of Thailand must pursue the aim of professional development. Continuing education has already been enforced with all members, this being a requirement for a renewal of the license. Professional standards are being established. The ultimate goal of professional development is to set up a residency training program for veterinary specialization and the process is under investigation. All veterinary schools have to cooperate with the council in providing staffs and facilities. This will be the professional challenge for the next decade.

Songkram Luangtongkum

DVM, DVSM, DVSc (Hon.)

Former Dean and

President of the Veterinary Council of Thailand