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Please help us help animals.

Address ..........................................................................................

Please help us help animals.

Card Expiry Date

Signature ........................................................................................

I’d like my donation to go to (area of greatest need or other): ..............

I’d like more information on:

\[\square\] leaving a gift in my will \[\square\] Regular committed giving

Credit Card

\[\square\] Visa \[\square\] Master Card

Cardholder’s Name .................................................................

Signature ...................................................................................

Card Expiry Date \[\square\] \[\square\]

We would love to be able to send you relevant information or articles on your interests of time to time. Please send this coupon back in the reply paid envelope with any of the following boxes ticked:

\[\square\] Cats \[\square\] Dogs \[\square\] Horses \[\square\] Production Animals

\[\square\] Other: .............................................................................

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100% of every dollar given goes to key priorities in the School and you can earmark your donation for a project that is important to you.

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Name .................................................................

Address ..........................................................................................

Phone ..........................................................................................

Email ..........................................................................................

My donation amount ($) .............................................................

The activity inside and outside the barn kept everyone busy and entertained with the sausage sizzle proving irresistible to both our two and four legged guests, raffles with prizes supplied by Hill’s Pet Nutrition, and a Cuteness dog competition that gave owners a chance to show off their beloved and very clean pet.

At the end of the day no one was entirely sure who had gotten more wet – man’s best friend or the vet students themselves. It was certainly clear that everyone involved; human and canine alike had a day of good clean fun.

Over $2,000 was raised for the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust and Zeno’s Animal Rescue Fund.

Earlier this year Murdoch Veterinary Student Association hosted their Annual Dog Wash. The perfect weather ensured a great turnout with the moods of dogs, owners, and our student volunteers just as sunny as the weather. Community members arrived in huge numbers with their canine companions to join in the charity fundraiser held at the Murdoch Veterinary School. With fifty students arriving to help out, and nearly twice as many dogs to bathe, it promised to be a lively day.

In the Equine Barn out of the heat, there was much chatting and laughter as the Dog Wash got underway. Fourth and Fifth Year vet students had the opportunity to practice their physical exam skills under the watchful eye of supervising veterinarians, with each dog receiving a free general health check. First, Second and Third Year vet students had the fun job of bathing the dogs.

Millie recovering from surgery in new donated equipment

Wet students now WET STUDENTS

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Veterinary students at Murdoch University are a hardy lot, and this was keenly demonstrated when seven fourth-year vet students jumped at the chance to travel to Esperance in July to gain some cattle experience as part of their 11 external weeks of practical experience. This type of out-of-classroom experience allows students to improve their skills and apply what they have learnt in classes and practicals.

Catherine Bishop, one of the students who attended this experience says, “When I was asked if I would like to go to Esperance and do some cattle marking I jumped at the opportunity. It sounded like fun, working with cattle in Esperance in July – Brrrrr, but fun!”

Catherine helped arrange a group of fourth-year vet students to travel down to Esperance and complete a week of calf marking on a property approximately 40 minutes east of Esperance. The week provided a perfect opportunity to gain some great experience in a beautiful part of WA. Calf marking involves separating the calves from their mums in the yards, running them through a separate race so they can be ear tagged, ear marked, vaccinated, drenched and castrated. Once they are finished they are let out the front of the yards to be reunited with their mums.

Some of the students had previous experience with cattle, while for others this was their first intensive cattle handling opportunity. Despite this they soon had a smooth system up and running with everyone having an opportunity to learn and master each of the required tasks. “Often when doing practical work we only get a chance to do something a few times” Cat shares, “so to be able to do the same thing over and over and get good at it while also working together as a team was extremely rewarding”.

As well as having the opportunity to be involved in calf marking the students undertook a tour of the farm’s feedlot which allowed the students to see the feeding process from producing silage and mixing rations, to feeding and monitoring cattle and finally to classing cattle for sale. They also ventured out to the paddocks to look at the different pastures used on the property and spent a morning talking about pasture management with the property owner.

The students say that their week in Esperance was fantastic and despite fearing heading that far down south in the middle of July, they were rewarded with absolutely perfect weather. Instead of spending the week in driza bones they spent it putting on sunscreen and wearing hats.

Visiting students and Esperance hosts

Learning about pasture species
Esperance in July – Brrrrr!

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B-ham Bacteria

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Learning about pasture species

A student’s thank you to donors

Murdock University’s veterinary course is incredibly demanding, and the 4th year is regarded as one of the toughest of this challenging course. For students facing economic hardship, 4th year especially hard. The increase in time spent doing rigorous coursework means less time to work, while the costs of textbooks and study materiels keep growing.

As a result of generous contributions, the Veterinary Alumni Fund 4th Year Scholarship was awarded to a deserving 4th year student again this year.

Last year’s recipient shares his gratitude for receiving this award. “I am writing to share my appreciation to the donors of the Veterinary 4th Year Alumni Fund Scholarship for 2011. The burdens of studying in the later years of the veterinary course are great and they put massive amounts of stress on many external aspects of a student’s life, especially financially.

There are many materials that are required to be purchased in 4th year, none of which are cheap, and with field time available to work...”

Thank you to all involved. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Behind the Scenes - Research

Professor David Hampson has been at Murdoch University since 1986, is the Dean of Murdoch University School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and is a leading authority on the bacterial genus Brachyspira. David has spent much of his career devoted to the study of these bacteria and the various animal and human infections that they cause.

In 2007 a new disease emerged in pigs in North America. This resembled swine dysentery, causing haemorrhagic colitis, and is now widespread and causes significant problems on commercial farms. It became apparent that this disease was caused by a previously unreognised Brachyspira species.

Professor David Hampson

Dr Hampson’s work has now been recognised by this new species of bacteria being named after him. The provisional name, Brachyspira hampsoni, was selected by Dr Connie Gebhart and her research team at the University of Minnesota in honour of his work in this area.

Dr Hampson says, “This is a kind acknowledgement for me and the team in Murdoch’s Veterinary Microbiology group, and speaks to the work we have done in the field. I’m flattered, though I note that a lot of people are already shortening the name to B-ham because the bacterium causes disease in pigs!”

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