



*August 24, 2009*

## **State-of-the-art veterinary facility opens at the U of C**

### ***New facility gives Alberta a unique advantage in food security, and protecting animal and human health***

*Calgary...* Alberta's first facility dedicated to training veterinarians and the study of animal and public health is opening to students this September. The new state-of-the-art Clinical Skills Building at the University of Calgary will accommodate more than 120 students who will study veterinary medicine in Alberta.

"The new facility features leading-edge imaging, surgical and diagnostic areas for large and small animals," said Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. "Not only will it offer an advanced learning environment, it will help our students expand their understanding of the interactions between animal and human health, and build our province's capacity to protect our food supply and exports."

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine's Clinical Skills Building is where students will learn essential hands-on clinical, diagnostic, surgical and professional skills.

"Our students will be trained using the most advanced technologies so they can effectively address current and future animal and public health needs," says Alastair Cribb, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

The Faculty is also developing Veterinary Medical Sciences graduate programs, which will accommodate, at full implementation, about 120 graduate students working toward Master of Science and PhD degrees.

In 2004, the Government of Alberta identified the need for a veterinary program focusing on the interface between animal and human health and the specific needs and strengths of the province. The province invested \$80 million to build the facilities needed for the veterinary medicine program, including \$65 million dedicated to the Clinical Skills Building. The first Doctor of Veterinary Medicine class began in September 2008.

For information on the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, visit: [www.vet.ucalgary.ca](http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca).

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