

## FACULTY PROFILE

# Meet Dr. Pierre-Yves Mulon, DVM, DACVS (Large Animal)

Born in Burgundy (France), Dr. Mulon obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree from the National Veterinary School of Alfort, near Paris (France). He competed an internship in farm animal Medicine and Surgery in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Montréal (Canada) the following year and pursued a residency program in Large Animal Surgery at the same institution. Dr. Mulon, an internationally recognized expert in surgery of livestock, was a clinical instructor at the University of Montréal for 4 years, a clinical assistant professor at Texas A&M for 2 years and a private practitioner for 5 years before joining UTCVM as an Assistant Professor of Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery in 2016.

### Why did you want to become a veterinarian?

I always loved to be around animals; my uncle and aunt's farm was my second home, and I wanted to do like them. I loved to process the herd and administer dewormers and vaccines, trimming the feet, being on lambing and kidding watch, and more simply to feed the herd with hay and concentrates. One day I was allowed to watch a caesarian section on a ewe; that was so impressive, I knew what I wanted to become. That perception was strengthened by shadowing a hometown mixed-practice veterinarian from the age of 13 until the day I earned my degree. I always felt I had been lucky to meet him and will stay forever extremely grateful to him; he really transmitted his passion for our profession to me.

### What do you do at UTCVM?

As part of the Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery Service, I divide my time mostly within the farm animal hospital, classroom and hands-on teaching, and research. In clinics, there is no normal day as many of our patients arrive on short notice, and the variety of the cases is so broad that it would be impossible to even start thinking of being bored! I love the multi-species aspect of my job, as well as the diversity of cases that come through the door—from the premature, fragile cria, to the lame, more or less fractious bull. My area of interest is farm animal surgery, both soft tissue and orthopedics. I really enjoy being in the surgery suite, challenged by unusual cases requiring specific needs. I never found something professionally more rewarding than having the opportunity to demonstrate and explain the different pathologies to the students while resolving them with their help. I love when they have a chance to palpate, see, assess and treat a specific disease that they have heard about during lectures.

### What do you enjoy about UTCVM?

I am lucky to work on a daily basis with extremely dynamic and collegial colleagues. This makes the day fly by. I also enjoy the diversity of the people from around the world working together for the benefit of our patients, adding ideas, strength and expertise to assure the best care possible. Having such extraordinary people close by allows a constant flow of innovative ideas.



Photo credit: Mary English, LVMT

### What do you enjoy about teaching/working with students?

What I like is their dynamism and their thirst to learn. They are our fuel, the reason to come here every morning. Every one of them is singular, and all bring to the classroom or to the clinical rotation their questions, their experiences. I particularly enjoy the moments when they can apply their classroom knowledge to real patients and that bright light appears in their eyes meaning they'll remember it for the rest of their career. I like working with and for them and hold them in great esteem; I see them not only as veterinary students but as future colleagues who will embrace our profession.

### What role do you play in RDVM practices?

I would love to help in any way I can. I have been lucky to have seen quite a few rare cases since I graduated and am thankful to the veterinarians who refer them. While distance may sometimes preclude the referral, I enjoy sharing opinions and expertise over the phone with those dedicated veterinarians.

### What would you like referring veterinarians to know about you?

As an ACVS-LA board certified surgeon, I enjoy all the surgical conditions, from the simplest to the most complicated and unusual. In the vast field of Farm Animal Surgery, my main areas of interest are minimally invasive surgeries (laparoscopy, endoscopies of the teat for dairy cows) and all the orthopedic conditions including the always-challenging infectious diseases, and the foot-related diseases. Having been in private practice, I know what it is like to think about a particular case I have seen driving back to the clinic or to the next client; do not hesitate to contact us if you have a question, because we are here to help you the best we can.

Learn more about Dr. Mulon by visiting [vetmed.tennessee.edu/home/Pages/faculty\\_staff\\_details.aspx?NetID=pmulon](http://vetmed.tennessee.edu/home/Pages/faculty_staff_details.aspx?NetID=pmulon) or finding him on ORCID: [orcid.org/0000-0001-8722-4370](http://orcid.org/0000-0001-8722-4370)

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2407 River Drive, Knoxville TN 37996 | 865.974.8387 | [vetmed.tennessee.edu/vmc](http://vetmed.tennessee.edu/vmc)