

FACULTY PROFILE

Meet Dr. John Schaefer, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVM (Parasitology)

Dr. John Schaefer, Clinical Assistant Professor of Parasitology in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences and Director of the Parasitology Laboratory, was born in New York City during the summer of love and soon after moved to the outer suburbs in what would later become ground zero for Lyme Disease. He earned his BA in Geology at Haverford College in Pennsylvania and earned his DVM at Texas A&M University, followed by an MS in Entomology from The Ohio State University and a PhD in Comparative Biomedical Sciences from Cornell University. Before working in a small animal practice in Texas, Dr. Schaefer was a park ranger in Austin, Texas. You might recognize the “Schaefer” name. His wife, Dr. Deanna Schaefer, is an assistant professor of Clinical Pathology at UTCVM.



Why did you want to become a veterinarian?

I've had a long standing interest in natural sciences which developed into advanced study in geology, entomology, veterinary medicine and parasitology. Wildlife work as a park ranger solidified my commitment to pursue veterinary training.

What do you do at UTCVM?

I am the Director of the diagnostic parasitology laboratory and a clinical assistant professor of parasitology.

What do you enjoy about the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine?

UTCVM is a welcoming environment for those with a passion to both teach and pursue scholarship.

What is the best part of your job?

UT has a very cordial and cohesive population of students and faculty and interacting with both has been a pleasure.

What do you enjoy about teaching/working with students?

It is very satisfying to see the metamorphosis of undergraduate students into veterinary professionals and an honor to play even a small role in that transformation.

What role do you play in referring veterinary practices?

I have a very active relationship with referring veterinarians and our conversations are usually mutually beneficial, as well as a nice break from more mundane tasks.

What would you like referring veterinarians to know about you?

We're here to help in any capacity. It's challenging to be the expert on everything, so don't hesitate to use the resources and expertise available to you in the UTCVM Diagnostic Laboratory.

What do you find most challenging?

Learning how to say “Maryville.”

Learn more about Dr. Schaefer by visiting vetmed.tennessee.edu/home/Pages/faculty_staff_details.aspx?NetID=jschae6