Dear UTCVM Family and Friends,

THANK YOU for helping us celebrate 50 years of The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine! All of you, our faculty, staff, students, alumni, referring veterinarians, and clients, have been or are essential partners in the life of this College. As we have celebrated success stories, mourned losses, and overcome challenges, you have helped develop the fabric of who we are; we hope you will join us in this year-long reflection and celebration of our first 50 years.

Looking back on those 50 years, we have a chance to truly appreciate the students, staff, and faculty who have come and gone, the medical breakthroughs and surgical innovations that have happened under our roof, and the many animals, owners, and veterinarians we have served. It has been our privilege and honor to serve the Institute of Agriculture, the University, and the State of Tennessee.

As we move forward, I hope you will always hold UTCVM near to your hearts and pledge that you will keep faithful watch for all that is yet to come in the future of this College. Working together, over the next half-century we can continue to provide Knowledge, Compassion, and Discovery to the people and animals we serve.

Cheers to 50 Years and Counting,

Dean Jim Thompson

Thank you, Dr. Thompson for your years of service. Congratulations on your retirement!
The College has had many significant events, milestones, and discoveries throughout the years, and there are too many to include in this calendar. We welcome your thoughts on additional milestones to highlight other ways throughout the years.

Please visit tiny.utk.edu/UTCVMSSubmitEvents and share them with us.

- 50th Anniversary Committee
Eleven Smokey statues exist on the University of Tennessee Campus. In 2022, the UTIA campus welcomed the Smokey XI statue, which is pictured above with a view of the Teaching and Learning Center at UTCVM in the background.
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**Special Days:**
- New Year’s Eve
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- Kwanzaa
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Hanukkah Begins
- UTCVM Holiday Luncheon
- Henton Veterinary Conference 2023 | Dec. 13-15
- UTCVM Power Outage | Dec. 16-Jan. 3
- Holiday Break | Dec. 22-Jan.2
March 19, 1974
Governor Winfield Dunn signs legislation to establish UTCVM.

July 15, 1974
Dr. William Armistead becomes the first UTCVM Dean.

April 3, 1976
A groundbreaking ceremony is held for the UTCVM.

Dean W.W. Armistead, University of Tennessee President Dr. Ed Boling, Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton, and University of Tennessee Chancellor Dr. Jack Reese participate in the groundbreaking of UTCVM in 1976.

An architectural model of the college and veterinary teaching hospital is pictured above.

Left: A newspaper clipping highlights the establishment of UTCVM. Above: UTCVM founding Dean, Dr. W.W. Armistead.
### January 2024

**Knowledge • Compassion • Discovery**

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**Important Dates**

- **June 15, 1967**
  - The UT Board of Trustees authorizes a feasibility study to assess the state’s veterinary needs.

- **March 30, 1968**
  - A feasibility study recommends the establishment of a veterinary school in Knoxville.

- **March 11, 1974**
  - Legislation passes the house and senate to establish UTCVM with only one dissenting vote.

- **Jan. 20, 1975**
  - College department heads gather with Dr. Armistead for the first Executive Committee Meeting.
1976
The first UTCVM class of 40 students begins at Cherokee Farms.

1977
Dr. Sharon Patton is hired as the first female faculty member in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences that was then known as the Department of Pathobiology.


Dr. Michael “Mickey” Sims teaches physiology in 1976.

Dr. Sharon Patton mentors a student in the parasitology lab.
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**Black History Month**

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**Presidents’ Day**

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**UTCVM Annual Conference**

- **Sept. 1, 1978**
The Student Chapter of American Veterinary Medical Association and the Auxiliary to the Student Chapter receive their charters.

- **Sept. 9, 1976**
The first faculty retreat is held.

July, 1978
The initial American Animal Hospital Association review conducted for full accreditation.
Sept. 4, 1978
Faculty, staff, and students move into the new building that includes classrooms, research facilities, clinical facilities, and a library.

1979
Students create the first UTCVM yearbook.

June 11, 1979
The first UTCVM class graduates with 39 students.

Drs. Krahwinkel, Gomph, and Paddleford move furniture into the new teaching hospital.

Above and below: Students learn in various settings in 1979.

Graduates recite the veterinary oath at the first commencement ceremony in 1979.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
### March 2024 Calendar

#### Events

- **March 1-3:** Music City Veterinary Conference
- **March 2024 Student American Veterinary Medical Association Symposium**
  - co-hosted by UTCVM and Lincoln Memorial University CVM.
  - This is the second time UTCVM has hosted the national symposium, the first being 2004
- **March 11-15:** Spring Break: March 11-15th
- **March 17:** St. Patrick’s Day
- **May 17, 1979:** The Zeta Chapter of the Society of Phi Zeta is chartered.
- **May 17, 1979:** The first honors convocation is held.
- **Sept. 22, 1979:** An academic convocation to dedicate the College of Veterinary Medicine is held.
- **1979:** Dr. W.W. Armistead is named UTIA Vice President.
- **Jan. 23, 1979:** UTVCM receives full accreditation from the AVMA COE in the spring.

#### Observances

- **March 31:** Easter Sunday
March 29, 1980
UTCVM hosts its first open house.

Oct. 17, 1980
The Clyde M. York Veterinary Medicine Building is dedicated.

Left and above: UTCVM welcomes the local community for the college’s first open house.

Clyde M. York (right center) poses with UTCVM Dean W.W. Armistead, Governor, Senator and UT President Lamar Alexander, Ned McWherter, and others at the dedication of the veterinary medicine building.
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- **March 1, 1980**
  UTCVM holds its first Annual Conference for Veterinary Practitioners.

- **Oct. 1, 1980**
  Hyram Kitchen is named UTCVM’s 2nd dean.

- **1981**
  Dr. Jean Proctor McNeil is the first African-American student to graduate from UTCVM.
As part of the 1982 World’s Fair, UTCVM and Anheuser-Busch establish a comprehensive herd health care program for the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdale Horse Operations.

June 30, 1987
Dr. Armistead retires as UTIA Vice President.

July 31, 1989
Founding administrator, Dr. Charles Reed, retires as associate dean.
Feb. 8, 1990
Dean Hyram Kitchen is killed at his home. After his death, Dr. Michael Shires is named interim dean.

1982
The commercial use of the endocrinology lab was solidified with the publication by Dr. Jack Oliver and Dr. Clint D. Lothrop (CVM '83) on Cushing's Disease. Today, the lab receives samples from all over the world.
HABIT volunteers Beth Code and her dog, Kodi, visit nursing homes and mental health facilities each week as part of the pet therapy program UTCVM established.

The class of 1992 is the first UTCVM class to graduate after the establishment of the four-year curriculum.

Drs. Susan Orosz and Pat Morris are photographed with kittens from the study.

Human Animal Bond in Tennessee (HABIT) is formed as a partnership between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Social Work to explore the uses and benefits of the human animal bond for individuals and for companion animals.

UTCVM changes from a three-year to a four-year curriculum, as the university changes from a quarter to semester format.

Dr. Susan Orosz & Dr. Pat Morris conduct in vitro research with cats as a model for an endangered species reproduction program.
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**Father’s Day**

**Juneteenth**

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July 1, 1985
The Tennessee legislature establishes the Center of Excellence for Livestock Disease and Human Health.

Dec. 21, 1990
Dr. Michael Shires is named UTCVM’s 3rd Dean.

Nov. 6, 1994
Drs. Hildegard Schuller (right) and Barry Rouse (left) are named Distinguished Professors.
Oct. 4, 1995
UTCVM’s 100,000th patient is treated

Nov. 1996
Veterinary Surgery publishes a paper by Dr. D.J. Krahwinkel & others (J.C. Vogt, R.M. Bright, G.B. Daniel, R.L. Toal, B. Rohrbach) on the development of the Ameroid constrictor for the treatment of portosystemic (liver) shunts. The American College of Veterinary Surgeons gave this an award for Best Research Paper of the Year. The device then became the treatment of choice for liver shunts.

July 17, 1998
An exact replica of the War Dog Memorial in Guam is dedicated thanks to college benefactor Dr. Maurice Acree.
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**June 2024**

### Independence Day

**July 2024**

Knowledge • Compassion • Discovery

**August 2024**

#### May 2, 2002

The Veterinary Social Work program is established at UTCVM.

#### July 31, 2000

Dr. Michael Shires retires after serving as dean for 10 years.

#### June 30, 2000

Dr. Michael Blackwell is named UTCVM’s 4th Dean.

#### July 31, 2000

Dr. Margaret Cawrse, performs the first cataract surgery on a bald eagle.

#### Aug. 1, 2000

Dr. Michael Blackwell is named UTCVM’s 4th Dean.

### Independence Day

#### March 1, 1999

Third-year ophthalmology resident, Dr. Margaret Cawrse, performs the first cataract surgery on a bald eagle.
Aug. 15, 2004

W.W. Armistead Veterinary Teaching Hospital is named in honor of the founding dean of UTCVM. Dr. Armistead was dean of two other veterinary schools before becoming founding dean at UTCVM. He was former president of the AVMA, founding editor of the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education, vice president of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, and veteran of World War II who served as Captain in the Army Veterinary Corps in Italy. The name of the hospital is changed again to W.W. Armistead Veterinary Medical Center on July 1, 2010.

Aug. 20, 2004

The Master of Public Health (MPH) veterinary public health concentration begins.

Pictured above and right: Veterinarians play an integral role in protecting public health.

Dr. W.W. Armistead and his wife, Mary Armistead, attend the naming of the veterinary teaching hospital dedicated in Dr. Armistead’s honor.
Jan. 1, 2005
CAIT becomes an official outreach program of UTCVM. CAIT’s mission is to improve the lives of companion animals and reduce the homeless pet population in Tennessee.

April 4, 2008
The John and Ann Tickle Small Animal Hospital is completed.

Feb. 19, 2010
The UTCVM Small Animal Intensive Care Unit renovation is completed.

March 30, 2011
The College celebrates the groundbreaking of the Equine Performance and Rehabilitation Center.

Students gain additional experience working with animals through the shelter medicine service and the CAIT program.

Staff work in the newly renovated small animal intensive care unit.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Equine Performance and Rehabilitation Center is held in 2011. Pictured from left to right: Dr. Dennis Geiser, Dawnya Breeding, Buddy Mitchell, Farm Bureau President Lacey Upchurch, Dr. Joe DiPietro, Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Julius Johnson, Dr. Jim Thompson, lead architect Jim Hinton, Dr. Carla Sommardahl, Al Claiborne UTCVM class of 2014, and Dr. Steve Adair.
Dr. Jim Thompson is named UTCVM’s fifth dean.

- 2006: Equine Rehabilitation services are added to UTCVM, including an underwater treadmill.
- Feb. 2, 2008: The one millionth UTCVM patient is treated.
- Aug. 2008: The Master Teacher Program is founded by Drs. India Lane, Michael Sims, and Nancy Howell.
- Oct. 1, 2008: Dr. Jim Thompson is named UTCVM’s fifth dean.
Oct. 31, 2014
The Companion Animal Initiative of Tennessee (CAIT) launches a mobile spay neuter clinic.

Nov. 2016
UTCVM medical teams treat almost two dozen animals injured in the Sevier County wildfires.
October 2024

Knowledge • Compassion • Discovery

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Rosh Hashanah Begins

Yom Kippur Begins

Columbus Day

Halloween

Oct. 28, 2013
UTCVM hires its first on-site farrier to aid in treatment of equine wellness.

June 27, 2017
Dr. Karen Tobias invents the Universal Tobias Clip.

Sept. 5, 2018
UTCVM launches a revised curriculum to extend the veterinary students’ clinical year of education.
March 23, 2017
The first blood transfusion for a black bear takes place at UTCVM.

Sept. 2017
UTCVM specialists print a 3D mask for Patches the turtle from Zoo Knoxville.

Oct. 22, 2020
The groundbreaking of the Teaching and Learning Center is celebrated.

Dr. Julie Sheldon administers the first blood transfusion for a black bear at UTCVM.

Patches the turtle models his new 3D-printed mask.

College faculty, staff, and students celebrate the groundbreaking for the Teaching and Learning center at UTCVM.
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Spring 2020
During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Veterinary Medical Center never closes. The college sends students and faculty home to conduct virtual learning. The classrooms look very different when they return.

July 14, 2021
The VOLVet Voice podcast is created to share the College’s stories of Knowledge, Compassion, and Discovery.

2021
The University of Tennessee Veterinary Obesity Center (VOC) is established in partnership with Royal Canin to investigate and treat obesity in pets to improve their health and wellbeing.

Thanksgiving Day
A renaming ceremony was held for the Charles & Julie Wharton Large Animal Hospital. The Equine and Farm Animal Hospitals at UTCVM were named the Charles and Julie Wharton Large Animal Hospital to honor the Wharton’s transformational philanthropic support of UT.

UTCVM honors 22 faculty and staff who have collectively dedicated a total of 681 years to the University.

UTCVM hosts a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly opened Teaching and Learning Center. In addition to the 130-seat John and Ann Tickle Lecture Hall, the TLC includes a clinical skills simulation laboratory and teaching labs.
# December 2024

**Knowledge • Compassion • Discovery**

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- **June 16, 2023**
  - The Center for Veterinary Social Work (CVSW) is established. The Center focuses on attending to the welfare of all species through excellence in global interprofessional practice.

- **Jul 17, 2023**
  - UTCVM celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the 1998 installation of the “Always Faithful” War Dog Memorial.

- **Aug. 3, 2023**
  - UTCVM hosts a three-day Veterinary Educator Boot Camp with more than 80 participants from 10 regional veterinary schools.

- **Dec. 31, 2023**
  - Dr. Jim Thompson retires after 15 years as dean. Dr. Bob DeNovo is named interim dean.

- **Henton Veterinary Conference 2024**

**SEVEC Veterinary Educator Boot Camp 2023**

**NEW DATE: Oct 14-16, 2023**

UTCVM hosts a three-day Veterinary Educator Boot Camp with more than 80 participants from 10 regional veterinary schools.
YOU ARE
THE heart OF
VOLVetMed

BE PART OF THE VOLVet FAMILY
We rely on support from our generous donors. Your donations are used to impact the greatest areas of need at the College of Veterinary Medicine, including:

- Scholarships
- Equipment & Technology
- Hospital Support
- Research
- Community Outreach & Social Work

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Questions? Want to discuss your options?
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