LSU Vet Med betters lives through exceptional teaching, healing, service, and discovery

Sandra Sarr, MFA, and Thomas Rooney, BA*

School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

*Corresponding author: Thomas Rooney (thomasrooney@lsu.edu)

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Students gain hands-on knowledge to perform at the highest level

At the heart of the newly invigorated student learning experience at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine (LSU Vet Med) is a 3-year integrated hands-on-animals program in our spacious new Clinical Skills Laboratory that integrates classroom learning and prepares graduates to be practice ready from Day 1. The Clinical Skills Lab is located within our new 40,000-square-foot Stephenson Pet Clinic, home to our companion animal wellness efforts and several clinical services, including community practice (primary care), dermatology, integrative medicine, and ophthalmology. The experiential learning space is equipped with an expanded number of clinical skills models and video to record simulated client interactions to increase communications skills. Our veterinarians-in-training learn from board-certified and other experts who are trained to teach. Our comprehensive curricular reform ensures our students enter their careers with confidence, knowledge, and the ability to perform at the highest level.

Into the field

At LSU Vet Med, students gain exposure to all species for a well-rounded career preparation. As part of our leading edge multidisciplinary Veterinary Teaching Hospital, our Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana students practice conservation medicine by providing veterinary care for injured wildlife, conducting conservation research, and educating the public with our resident raptors. We treat 1,200 wildlife cases each year and release 40% back into the wild. An elective rotation provides hands-on opportunities to treat and release wildlife, performing basic procedures and surgeries on a variety of species with faculty support. We conduct research projects at the state, national, and international levels with a focus on wildlife preservation and conservation. Additionally, our Shelter Medicine and Community Outreach programs feature 2 fully equipped mobile clinics, including a new unit funded by Petco Love in which students and clinicians perform spay and neuter surgeries, vaccinations, flea and heartworm prevention, and general wellness examinations. Via our mobile clinics, we provide veterinary services for the feral animal population at Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola. We also train imprisoned people participating in the animal shelter inside the Dixon Correctional Institute how to care for animals as part of our clinical animal shelter rotation. The mobile clinics are also used to serve the community by providing veterinary services, disaster relief, animal shelter service, and student learning opportunities. We train and deploy animal rescue and response teams who are ready when disaster strikes in our hurricane-prone region.

Powering growth to meet the needs of the future

In addition to the DVM degree, we offer PhD, MS, and DVM-MPH dual degrees. LSU will nearly double its entering class size by 2024 and expand veterinary services in response to the growing need for veterinary care to better meet the needs of clients and patients. With $74 million in research funding, our students are part of a research powerhouse that includes 2 Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence—the Center for Lung Biology and Disease and Center for Pre-Clinical Cancer Research—as well as the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and other research laboratories investigating ways to improve and protect lives.