AQUAVET®
Background Information

- Need for trained veterinary professionals
  - contribute to the health/welfare of aquatic animals and their environment
  - Began in the spring of 1977

- Historically sponsored by
  - University of Pennsylvania
  - Cornell University
AQUAVET®
Course Information

• Four opportunities
  • AQUAVET® I
    • Introduction to Aquatic Veterinary Medicine
    • 4 week course
  • AQUAVET® II
    • Comparative Pathology of Aquatic Animals
    • 2 week course
  • AQUAVET® III
    • Clinical Aspects of Captive Aquatic Animal Medicine
    • 5 week course
  • AQUAVET® Summer fellowship
    • Usual Location: Fish Diagnostics Lab at Cornell
    • Usual Topic: a selected fish viral disease
    • Duration: 8 weeks
Logistics – AQUAVET® I & II

- **Roger Williams University - Bristol, RI**
  - Classrooms and labs
  - Library

- **Tuition** covers course work, housing and most meals

- **Housing** – suites with kitchen and 2 bedrooms
  - 4 students per suite
  - roommate
  - no pets

- **Meals** – cafeteria meal plan
  - Breakfast, lunch, dinner
  - 5-10 stations
Location   Bristol, R.I.

20 min to Newport
20 min to Providence
Bristol, R.I.

Just 1-1.5 hours to:
- Boston
- Mystic
- Barnstable
COURSES at RWU

AQUAVET® I:
An Introduction to Aquatic Veterinary Medicine

4 weeks: total immersion course
26 May to 22 June 2019
22-24 Students
Approx. 46 invited faculty

AQUAVET® II:
Comparative Pathology of Aquatic Animals

2 weeks: total immersion course
26 May to 8 June 2019
12-18 students
Approx. 15 invited faculty
Typical Dorm Room
AQUAVET® I
Introduction to Aquatic Veterinary Medicine

- Four weeks – begins May 26 and ends June 22
- Classes routinely five and one half days a week (and most evenings)

- Water Quality
- Invertebrates to marine mammals
- Lectures and laboratory sessions
- Student seminars
- Field trips
**AQUAVET® I**

Introduction to Aquatic Veterinary Medicine

*Invertebrates to marine mammals*

- Aquatic invertebrates
- Fish
- Amphibians and Reptiles
- Sea Turtles
- Aquatic Birds
- Marine Mammals
AQUAVET® I

Field trips

- Intertidal Invertebrate Collecting
- Fish Hatchery
- Shellfish Hatchery
- Mystic Aquarium
- New England Aquarium
- Atlantis Marine World
- Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation
- WHOI (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute)
AQUAVET® I

- **Tuition for Students** - $2,425
  - Less $200 from anonymous donor = $2,225
- **Includes**
  - Tuition
  - Room and board (almost all meals) - 4 weeks

- **Required to attend class**
  - Foundation covering 2/3 of cost

- **Credit Available – depending on school**
  - Evaluation based on
    - Participation in all aspects of the course
    - Especially student seminars
AQUAVET® I Cost Comparisons

- *Tuition* - $2,425 - $200 = $2,225
  - Compare:
  - **AQUAVET® I** – 4 weeks
    - about $600/week - Includes
    - Tuition
    - Room and board (practically all meals)
  - **MarVet** – 2 weeks for about $2,000
    - About $1,000/week
    - Includes only some meals
  - **SeaVet** – about $490 for 10 days
    - About $345/week
    - Includes only some meals
    - Doesn’t include housing
Scenes from AQUAVET® I
Scenes from AQUAVET® I
Scenes from AQUAVET® I
Not All Fun and Games
Classes
- routinely five and one half days a week
- (and most evenings)
- Required to Attend Class
- 8 am to noon
- 1 pm to 5 pm
- 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm or later
**AQUAVET® I**

- **Student seminars**
  - 25-30 minute
  - *PowerPoint*
  - **Topics**
    - Invertebrates to marine mammals
    - Marine plants
    - Ecology
  - prepare early
Diving adaptations of sea turtles

Colin McDermott
University of Pennsylvania:
School of Veterinary Medicine
Aquaculture I
June 6 2008

Conservation of the Hawaiian Monk Seal
Monachus schauinslandi

The American Paddlefish
Past, Present and Future

http://www.kauaimonkseal.com/Home.html
http://archives.starbulletin.com/2006/05/31/news/02z13nsn.html
Amblyrhynchus cristatus

Galapagos Marine Iguana - Marine Iguana - Sea Iguana

Cassie Sulton
Aquavet I 2006
Kansas State University
cassie@ksu.edu

Koi Herpesvirus

May 27, 2004
Isadora Marion

Natural History of the Octopus

Presented by
Alexandra Outlaw, D.V.M.

Manatee Biology

Barbara Carver
NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine
Aquavet I
March 30, 2006
AQUAVET® II
Comparative Pathology of Aquatic Animals

FOCUS

Pathology and Pathogenesis of diseases
• of important aquatic invertebrates and fish
• biomedical research models
• cultured species
AQUAVET® II
Comparative Pathology of Aquatic Animals

- Prerequisites: AQUAVET® I or equivalent
- Two Weeks – May 26 to June 8
- Classes 5.5 days a week and most evenings

- Lectures, slide review, and occasional wet labs
  - Primarily Fish and Invertebrates
  - Comparative Anatomy
  - Parasites
  - Bacterial, Viral and Fungal Diseases
  - Toxicology
  - Histopathology
AQUAVET® II

- **Student Tuition - $1,475**
  - Includes course instruction and room and board

- **Required to Attend Classes**
  - Foundation covering 2/3 of cost

- **Course Credit possible**
  - Depends on school requirements

- **Evaluation**
  - Based on class participation
Scenes from AQUAVET® II
AQUAVET® II - Lots of Microscope Work
Several Wet Labs in AQUAVET® II
Whale Watch

Finback Whale

Humpback Whale

Finback Whale
Free Time
AQUAVET® Summer Fellowship

- Research project under guidance of AQUAVET® faculty
- 8 week duration (July and August)
- Aquaculture Based Project (funding requirement)
- Limited positions – usually 1
- Pays stipend of $3,800 after finishing all 8 weeks
- Publication often generated at the end of project
AQUAVET® III

- **3 Venues**
  - Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, GA
  - University of Georgia, Athens, GA
  - Dolphinaris Facilities, Cancún, México

- **Dates**
  - June 243rd to July 28th - 5 weeks

- **15 credits**
  - Evaluation based on
    - Participation in all aspects of the course
    - Also Case Reports
AQUAVET® III

Prerequisites

- AQUAVET® I – or equivalent

Class Size

- 6-8 students

Not Included

- Transportation to and from Atlanta
- Airfare to Cancún and from Cozumel
- Some meals
Georgia Aquarium

- 2 Weeks – Mon through Sat
- 2-4 hours lecture per day
- Hands on care with veterinary staff
  - Marine Mammals – Belugas, Pinnipeds, Dolphins, Otters
  - Largest Tank in USA – one of largest in the World
  - Fish including Elasmobranchs – Whale Sharks, Manta Rays
  - Penguins and other birds
  - Sea Turtles, Crocodilians and other reptiles
Morning Rounds
AQUAVET® III

- University of Georgia
  - 3rd week
  - AM lectures
  - PM Endoscopy
    - Turtles
    - Fish
  - Fish Surgery
  - Lectures and Student Case Reports
Student Case Reports
- Aquarium Cases
- 55 minutes
- PowerPoint
- Preparation – first 2 weeks
- Presentation – 3rd week
Dolphinaris
- Dolphin Medicine Only – 3 species
- 2 Weeks – Mon through Sat
- 3 Venues
  - Cancún
  - Playa del Carmen
  - Cozumel
- Days are a mix of lectures and hands-on activities
AQUAVET® III - Cancún
Dolphinaris

Sampling of Lecture Topics

- Dolphin Medicine and Physiology
- Nutrition
- Reproduction
- Importance of Training
- Endoscopy
- Ultrasound
- Hematology and Cytology
AQUAVET® III

- **Dolphinaris**
  - Sampling of Hands On Training
  - Blood Collection and Hematology
  - Chuff Collection and Cytology
  - Semen Collection and Analysis
  - Endoscopy
  - Ultrasound
Dolphinaris

- Sampling of Hands On Training
- Blood Collection and Hematology
- Chuff Collection and Cytology
- Semen Collection and Analysis
- Endoscopy
- Ultrasound
Learning to do dolphin examinations in a beautiful location.
Learning some training techniques.
Learning to process and analyze biological samples.
Learning ultrasound, first in the lab and then in the pool.
3 days in the water doing ultrasound
Learning how to use a flexible endoscope.
Not all Work and No Play
AQUAVET® III

- **Tuition** - $3,900 ($4,950 Non-student)
  - Includes
    - Tuition
    - Room and majority of board - 5 weeks
- **Tuition** - $3,900 ($4,950 Non-student)
  - $8,900 is actual tuition (which doesn’t cover all costs)
  - $5,000 paid by anonymous donors
  - Additional funds paid by anonymous foundation
    - (to help keep tuition and expenses lower)

- **Course Credit Available**
  - Evaluation based on
    - Participation in all aspects of the course
    - Also Case Reports
APPLICATION PROCESS

Application forms [www.aquavet.org]

Download the application form

MS Word and pdf

Please Submit Electronically

APPLICATIONS DUE 15 Jan 2019
APPLICATION PROCESS

What you must submit:

1. The completed application form
2. OFFICIAL Undergraduate transcripts
3. OFFICIAL Veterinary school transcripts

NOTE: “OFFICIAL” means they are sent directly to the director by the university. We cannot accept transcripts sent by the students. Most are done electronically these days.
APPLICATION PROCESS

NOTES:

- If applying for more than one course, need to submit application for each, however, only one set of transcripts.
- If applying for a second year (e.g. AQV2 or AQV3), only the updated veterinary school transcript is required (and application).
- Veterinary school transcript must include recent work (fall of the year before application due).
- CV accepted but NOT required.
- Letters of recommendation accepted but NOT required.
- Transcripts must be official copies sent directly to the director.
  - Transcripts should be sent electronically by the university to the director.
  - Paper transcripts are problematic, but IF NECESSARY will be accepted at director’s address.
APPLICATION PROCESS

Where to submit:

Should be electronic: aquavetmail@gmail.com

If transcripts must be sent by mail:

Donald W. Stremme, V.M.D.
AQUAVET® Director
Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Microbiology and Immunology
C5181 Vet Medical Center
Ithaca, NY 14853
APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications due **Jan 15, 2019**

- Application forms - website
  - Via E-mail as PDF file preferred

- **Essay** - highlight any aquatic experience
  - Can be separate word document
  - This is most important part of your application

- Acceptance to the program
  - Competitive Basis
  - Announced in February
APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is competitive

What does the admission committee look for?

An indication that you will use the information in the future
What have you done in the past in the aquatic sciences
    and/or aquatic animal medicine…..
    and/or even other exotic animal work
Formal courses
Other courses
Paid and volunteer work experience
Other: e.g. hobbies (keep aquarium fish)
Membership: IAAAM, WAVMA, AAFV, AAZV, ARAV, etc.

Application form, essay –

Why you think you will benefit from the course.
Probably the most important part of the application.
Follow the instructions regarding length of your essay.
Proof read it.
Further information

- Website  [www.aquavet.org](http://www.aquavet.org)

- Contact Information

  Donald W. Stremme, VMD  
  (609) 350-3044  
  [aquavetmail@gmail.com](mailto:aquavetmail@gmail.com)