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Hokkaido University-Chulalongkorn University
International Vet Exchange Program 2025
Achieving Global Standards of Excellence in Veterinary Education

Student Report from
School of Veterinary Medicine,
Hokkaido University
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Hana AOSHIMA, 4th year

In this program, I joined a four-week clinical internship at the Small Animal Hospital of Chulalongkorn University (CU), rotating through different departments each week. Since I wanted to learn in areas that I wouldn't be able to experience at Hokkaido University, I participated in the Exotic Animal department, the Emergency Room (ER) & the CCU, the Rehabilitation, the Surgery, and the Feline Clinic. We attended and observed the actual patient consultations. Because we couldn't understand Thai, the professors and sixth-year students kindly interpreted the owners' words into English and carefully explained the examinations and treatment plans. I was especially impressed that not only the professors, but also the students, could explain fluently using technical terms in English.

At the beginning of the internship, my knowledge of veterinary English was very limited. During the first week in the Exotic Animal Department, I could not fully follow the explanations and felt quite nervous. From then on, I studied veterinary English as much as I could before and after daily training. It was not easy, but the knowledge I learned could be applied immediately in the next day's training. This helped me absorb things quickly and naturally made me more motivated to learn more. Through this experience, I realized the importance of being able to explain my specialty in English and I would like to continue developing this skill. And I strongly recommend that future participants prepare by studying veterinary terms in English beforehand.

There were two main things I hoped to learn through this program. The first was the difference between small animal practice in Thailand and in Japan. Although my comparison is limited to university hospitals, I was able to notice several differences during my stay at CU. The most significant one was that while the hospital at Hokkaido University mainly handles second-opinion cases, CU Hospital also plays the role of a primary hospital. Because of this, the number of cases per day was extremely high. All departments—from the General Medicine department, which handles vaccinations and follow-ups, to the various specialty departments—were gathered in one building, which made it possible to deal with a wide range of cases, from mild to severe.

I also felt that parasitic and infectious diseases, which are not so common in Japan, were more frequently seen in Thailand. During the training, I had chances to examine actual cases under the microscope, such as mites that caused feather loss in parrots, and fungi that cause sporotrichosis, known as a zoonotic disease. In the ER, I was impressed that in a case of severe anemia, the doctors first suspected parasitic infections. They then carried out tests such as SNAP tests for heartworm, ehrlichiosis, and Lyme disease, as well as checks for babesiosis. This diagnostic process was strikingly different from that in Japan. Through this clinical rotation, some of the diseases I had learned about in class could be observed in actual cases, which provided a very valuable learning experience.

I also discovered some similarities between Thailand and Japan. For example, the pets were cared for as if they were real members of the family, and in that respect, I felt it was similar to Japan. Many of the owners who came to the hospital seemed to wish to improve their pets' quality of life. At the same time, I also noticed some owners who let their pets become overweight because they found it cute, and some pets that could not receive adequate examinations or treatments due to financial reasons. In addition, when I visited a pet market on a weekend, I saw animals being sold at very low prices in poor conditions. In such situations, I sometimes felt uncertain about the sense of responsibility among the owners. Some illnesses and diseases partly result from inappropriate ways of keeping pets due to a lack of knowledge on the owners' side. Therefore, I observed that veterinarians sometimes provided guidance

on proper pet care.

The second thing I wanted to learn was about veterinary education in Thailand. I was often impressed by how proactive the CU students were. In Thailand, students take the national licensing exam at the end of the fifth year, so sixth-year students are already licensed veterinarians. They rotate in groups through all the departments for several months of training. In many cases, the students first carried out basic examinations such as physical examinations and fecal examinations, and then the professors confirmed their findings. The students approached each case with great responsibility. Many of them answered my questions clearly and kindly, and I realized that they were developing the ability to apply their knowledge in practice. I think this kind of hands-on education is possible thanks to CU Hospital's unique feature of handling both a large number and a wide variety of cases. Watching the students steadily gain knowledge and skills through their daily training was very inspiring for me.

Over the weekends, CU students kindly took us to visit many sightseeing spots. Although Thailand is well known as a Buddhist country, I was still surprised by the sheer number of temples. We visited several famous temples, including Wat Phra Kaew, Wat Arun, and Wat Pho. At these temples, we also saw local people coming to pray. In Japan, I rarely have opportunities to think about religion, but through this stay in Thailand, I realized how strongly religion can influence people's culture and way of thinking. This experience made me reflect on how I should interact with people from different cultural and religious backgrounds.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who supported me and made this valuable experience possible. I am very thankful to the professors at CU Hospital who warmly welcomed us and generously shared their knowledge. I also feel deeply grateful to the sixth-year students I met during my stay, who helped me in many ways both inside and outside the hospital. Their friendliness and kindness meant a lot to me. I am confident that I will apply everything I have learned through this program to my future studies and career.

A trip to Ayutthaya with CU students



Trying laser treatment in the Rehabilitation Department



Enjoying boat noodles

Chulalongkorn University

Soyo OSAKO, 4th year

During this one-month program, I had an internship in small animal practice at Small Animal Teaching Hospital in Chulalongkorn University (AHCU), and deepened my learning in areas of interest, mainly on weekends. While there were a lot of experiences that were new to me and fruitful, due to space constraints, this report will focus particularly on what I learned at AHCU, along with observations made at Chatuchak Market, the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), and a wildlife sanctuary.

First, I will focus on what I learned at AHCU.

Here, I spent one week each in four departments - Cardiology, Nephrology, and Diabetes Clinic; Dermatology Clinic; Emergency Room and CCU; and Exotic Clinic - learning small animal clinical practice. I will briefly describe the characteristics observed in each department and then focus on one case seen in the Exotic Animal Medicine department that showed some of the characteristics of AHCU's clinical approach. In the Cardiology, Nephrology, and Diabetes Clinic, I observed the consistency of international standards for cardiac disease diagnosis, including echocardiogram interpretation, even compared to Japan. In addition, as elderly patients tend to get heart diseases, I could see a lot of cases with elderly patients in this clinic, and the large number of cases suggested the extended life expectancy resulting from changes in companion animal care practices in Bangkok. In Dermatology, I encountered many cases of infectious diseases linked to pathogens associated with multi-pet households and outdoor living arrangements. In the emergency room / CCU, witnessing animals in critical condition made me keenly aware of the importance of financial considerations in owners' decisions and the depth of their affection for their pets (Fig 1). The exotic clinic offered an opportunity to encounter cases of a diverse range of species, including those picked up from the streets, providing insight into the values surrounding exotic pet ownership in Thailand. Here, I will describe a case of rectal prolapse in a tarsier seen in the exotic clinic. Tupai is a wild animal native to Thailand. The patient brought to the hospital had fallen from a tree in a private garden in his childhood, lost his parents, and was subsequently rescued. On the day, the owner noticed the condition just hours before bringing it to the hospital. The clinic initially attempted to return the prolapsed rectum to its normal position through the anus while applying cold therapy. However, due to the animal's small size and swelling at the prolapsed site, the rectum kept re-prolapsing after reduction, necessitating transfer to the emergency room. There, multiple veterinarians collaborated to successfully reposition the rectum into the pelvic cavity and suture around the anus to prevent re-prolapse. After that, to rule out the risk of intussusception associated with rectal prolapse recovery, the patient was taken to the imaging department. There, no issues were found, and the patient was discharged home. This case provided a glimpse into the hospital's collaborative system, where veterinarians with specialized knowledge within their respective fields work together based on diagnosis and condition to treat a single patient.

Next, I will mention what I observed at other facilities.

At Chatuchak Market, I witnessed firsthand scenes that could be described as the “dark side” of Thailand's animal industry, such as a wide variety of animal species being traded at very low prices in extremely high-density housing conditions. At NIAH, I was provided with explanations historical ties between Thailand and Japan, as well as the efforts of public institutions to control animal infectious diseases while taking a tour of the facility (Fig 3). On the other hand, I also learned that the current situation regarding the market and the trade in antibiotics is difficult to resolve through public institution intervention alone. At the wildlife sanctuary, we saw animals that have lived within

Thailand's complex society, where “wild animals” and “industrial animals” intersect. These included coconut monkeys kept as livestock, and animals illegally bred not only for the pet trade but also for tourism and export to other countries.

Next, I will briefly express what I felt based on these considerations. As mentioned above, the situation regarding animals in Thailand is complex, and the issues that could be considered as problems are not easily resolved. However, I also observed that individuals involved in the economy related to animals, including university hospital faculty, staff, and students, as well as pet owners, have a deep affection for animals. Personally, while I am still contemplating my future, I have developed a certain sense of attachment and trust through this stay. Therefore, if given the opportunity, I would certainly like to cooperate in solving issues based on shared values. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have supported me in this program. In particular, I would like to extend special thanks to the people from Hokkaido University and Chulalongkorn University who provided me with this opportunity, the doctors and staff from the clinical department at the Chulalongkorn University Animal Hospital who took care of me, and the students and staff of NIAH who welcomed me.



Fig 1. Commemorative photo (at ER/CCU)



Fig 3. Commemorative picture after the visit (at NIAH)

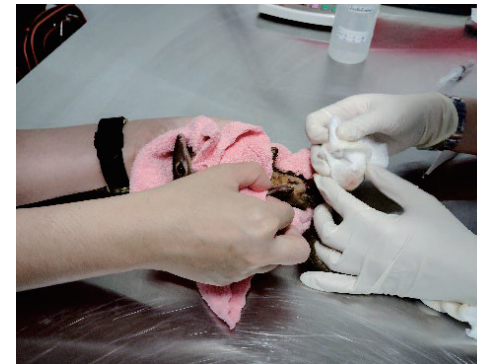


Fig 2. Tupai being examined (at exotic clinic)

Chulalongkorn University

Hinana KADOWAKI, 4th year

I participated in a four-week internship focused on small animal clinical practice at the Animal Hospital at Chulalongkorn University (CU) in Thailand. The hospital is subdivided into numerous departments, including surgery, internal medicine, exotic clinic, feline center, and dermatology. Its main building is ten stories tall, making it larger in scale than Hokkaido University's facility. From among the many departments, I selected Feline Center, Exotic Clinic, the Pathology Unit, Rehabilitation/Surgery, completing a one-week rotation each. All exchange students from Hokkaido University chose different departments each week, so I was the only Japanese person every single week, which made me quite anxious at first. Additionally, the English spoken by Thai people differed in accent and other aspects from the English I was used to hearing in Japanese classes, leading to the problem of not being able to understand words I should have known. However, the teachers patiently explained things until I understood, and the CU students I rotated with also taught me in easy-to-understand English. Furthermore, my ears gradually became accustomed to the English spoken by Thai people. I began to understand the cases and their treatments, and the moments I found enjoyable increased. In this report, I will describe one memorable case from each of the four departments I visited.

During the first week at the feline center, I encountered numerous cases of sporotrichosis, a disease characteristic of tropical regions. This is a zoonosis caused by fungi that inhabit soil and plants. The infection primarily enters through skin wounds, causing nodules to form on the skin. As the infection spreads, swollen lymph nodes may also develop. While rarely seen in Japan, the number of cats diagnosed with this case has been increasing in Thailand in recent years. However, I learned that this increase is not due to a rise in sporotrichosis cases themselves, but rather because many cases previously misdiagnosed as cryptococcosis were later identified as sporotrichosis. Following the professor's explanation, I learned that fungal and parasitic infections are common in Thailand, making the first moment I truly felt the difference from Japan. CU students have detailed knowledge of the causes, symptoms, and treatments for this condition. I realized that the content we learn differs depending on the prevalence of cases in different regions, and I also felt I should learn more about diseases commonly seen outside Japan.

During my second week at the exotic clinic, I was able to examine not only common pets like hamsters and rabbits, but also a wide variety of animals such as sugar gliders, hedgehogs, and reptiles. What was particularly striking here was the case of Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD) of avians. Multiple cases were observed during this training session. While the cause was previously unknown, it was identified in 2009 as being caused by Avian Borna Virus. It infects the central and peripheral nervous systems, causing digestive and neurological symptoms. A characteristic feature is the distension of the glandular stomach, where ingested food becomes trapped and cannot be digested. The degree of glandular stomach expansion is classified into three levels: normal, moderate, and severe. The X-ray photograph of the avian shown in Figure 1 is considered to be at a moderate level based on the degree of glandular stomach dilatation.

During my visit to the pathology unit in the third week, a case of canine pythium disease was particularly memorable. This is a zoonosis caused by an oomycete called *Pythium insidiosum*. It is characteristic of tropical and subtropical regions, with only about three confirmed cases in Japan, including humans. Although difficult to treat, it has been found in recent years that antimicrobial agents are effective. In cats, lesions form in various sites such as

the oral cavity, perianal region, digestive tract, and nasal cavity. In dogs, however, gastrointestinal pythium disease, which forms tumors in the digestive tract, is common. In this canine case, numerous tumors formed in the intestines, obstructing passage of contents. Additionally, necropsy revealed water accumulation in the stomach, suggesting the dog ingested the oomycetes with water from an outdoor source. Beyond this case, in the pathology unit, I performed necropsies almost every morning. It was an excellent experience to be able to perform necropsies not only on dogs, cats, and rabbits, but also on a sea turtle and a tortoise.

During the fourth week, I completed clinical rotations in rehabilitation and surgery. Since I only spent one day in surgery, I want to focus on the rehabilitation unit. Here, there were various machines such as water treadmill, laser, ultrasound, and shockwave therapy. Additionally, many of the patients were small dogs, such as Pomeranians and Chihuahuas. The most common condition in these small dogs is patellar luxation. This is classified into four grades based on the ease of dislocation and the degree of reduction of the patella, with Grade 1 being the mildest and Grade 4 being the most severe. During this internship, I was able to examine cases of patellar luxation of various grades. To relieve pain, we performed ultrasound therapy and laser therapy, and for exercise, we administered treatment using a water treadmill. I was able to actually perform ultrasound therapy and laser therapy, which was a valuable experience.

Not only were the university internships fulfilling, but daily life was also incredibly enriching. On weekdays, I would go to the market near the university with students I met during my rotations to buy lunch, or I'd attend a freshman welcome party that happened to be going on, allowing me to experience local university life firsthand. Additionally, during my days off, I was taken by CU students who will be studying at Hokkaido University next spring to Ayutthaya, the floating market, and the zoo, allowing me to experience Thai history and culture. What I gained over this past month extends far beyond improved English skills and knowledge of veterinary medicine in Thailand. The encounters with so many people and animals, the experience of living in a foreign land, the challenges of conveying my thoughts to those with different backgrounds, and the joy when they were understood—these too are irreplaceable treasures to me. I would like to express my gratitude to the professors and friends at Hokkaido University and CU who supported me in gaining this invaluable experience.

Khob khun ka!

Figure 2 : Tortoise Necropsy



Figure 3 : Ultrasound Therapy Session



Figure 1 : PDD Avian X-ray

Chulalongkorn University

Ami WAKABAYASHI, 4th year

I participated in an exchange program at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand from August 17 to September 14. During this four-week program, I completed clinical rotations through four departments: Dermatology unit, Imaging Center, Exotic Animal unit, and Emergency Room, spending one week in each department. This report provides an overview of my experiences and observations during this valuable international veterinary education opportunity.

Hospital Overview and Learning Environment

The CU Small Animal Teaching Hospital is a comprehensive facility comprising over 10 specialized departments, including feline medicine, ophthalmology, oncology, and others, housed in a 10 floors main building with two additional buildings. Compared with Hokkaido University, Chulalongkorn University manages a diverse caseload ranging from primary to tertiary care, with substantial daily patient volumes creating an active learning environment. Clinical activities typically operated from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and I followed this schedule, observing examinations and procedures alongside attending veterinarians. Since consultations between veterinarians and pet owners were conducted in Thai, I focused on observing and inferring the reason for each patient's visit and the type of examination being conducted. During intervals between appointments, I actively engaged by asking questions in English and reading English portions of medical records to enhance my comprehension of cases and treatment protocols. Initially, I encountered significant challenges understanding specialized English veterinary technical terms during discussions. However, teachers and students at CU demonstrated exceptional hospitality and patience, consistently rephrasing complex explanations in simpler terms and writing unfamiliar technical terms on paper to facilitate my understanding. Although veterinary lessons at CU are taught in Thai, all educational materials and handouts are provided in English. This educational system results in students possessing excellent command of English veterinary terminology, clearly demonstrating the high academic standards and international orientation of CU's veterinary education program.

Clinical Rotation Experiences

Dermatology Unit

During my dermatology unit rotation, I observed diverse skin conditions including Malassezia dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, and alopecia secondary to hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's syndrome). I participated in diagnostic procedures by performing cytological staining of smears collected from inflamed skin areas and conducted microscopic grading of bacterial and Malassezia infections. These hands-on experiences provided valuable practical skills in dermatological diagnostic techniques and reinforced theoretical knowledge of common skin pathologies in dogs and cats.

Imaging Center

The Imaging Center operated as a diagnostic support department, receiving requests from faculty in other departments within the university to perform ultrasound examinations, radiography, CT, and MRI studies, and then writing diagnostic reports based on image interpretation. I was particularly impressed by their efficient workflow organization, where veterinary students and animal nurses managed imaging procedures while veterinarians concentrated exclusively on image interpretation and report generation. Through radiographic cases, I observed conditions including pyometra and heartworm disease, while ultrasound examinations revealed pathologies such as hydronephrosis and PLE. Notably, due to pharmaceutical approval differences between countries, they utilized dexmedetomidine rather than medetomidine for anesthesia protocols during CT and MRI procedures, highlighting interesting international variations in veterinary pharmaceutical practices.

Exotic Animal unit

The exotic animal unit provided exposure to diverse species and unique pathological conditions, including hamsters with Demodex infections, a rabbit suspected of having Encephalitozoon's, and baby parrots presenting with splay legs. I gained valuable hands-on experience through various clinical procedures including cardiac auscultation of guinea pigs with pulmonary hypertension, holding a hedgehog still during ultrasound examinations, and microscopic examination of avian crop samples for Candida organism identification. This rotation significantly expanded my knowledge of specialized diagnostic approaches for exotic animals.

Emergency Room

The emergency room operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, treating serious cases such as feline arterial thromboembolism, severe trauma from train accidents, and acute vaccine-induced allergic reactions. One particularly challenging case involved a stray kitten presenting with severe unilateral traumatic wounds. Due to the financial problem and poor long-term prognosis with likely permanent disability, euthanasia was performed. While

witnessing such emotionally difficult situations was challenging, this experience reinforced the fundamental importance of providing optimal medical care within realistic circumstances while considering both animal welfare and client limitations.

Cultural Experience and Daily Life

Daily life in Thailand provided constant opportunities for cultural learning and personal growth. I frequently enjoyed meals at the university cafeteria like food hub and, where nutritious and flavorful dishes cost approximately 300 baht, offering affordability Thai cuisine. The tropical climate in Thailand from August to September was slightly more humid than Japanese summers but remained comfortable. Rain consistently fell during the evening and nighttime hours, so I was able to avoid getting soaked by sudden downpours.

During weekend excursions, I visited numerous cultural and educational attractions throughout Bangkok and surrounding areas. Particularly memorable destinations included the renowned Snake Farm with its extensive collection of venomous species, the fascinating Siriraj Medical Museum famous for its comprehensive anatomical specimen collections, and Khao Kheow Open Zoo, which gained international attention for housing the pygmy hippopotamus "Moo Deng", the pygmy hippopotamus that became a global social media sensation.

What I Gained and Learned from This Program

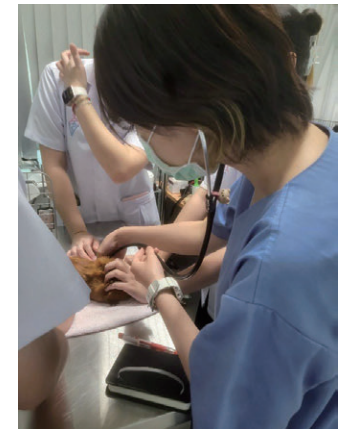
The primary purpose of this study abroad program was to learn about small animal clinical practice in Thailand, particularly exotic animal medicine. I aspire to become a small animal veterinarian who can treat exotic animals, but I had concerns about pursuing this path due to the mental and physical burdens of small animal practice. Through this program, I hoped to gain clarity about my future career direction. Observing Chulalongkorn University's small animal clinic firsthand, I realized that the challenges—examining animals and explaining treatments to owners—are similar to those in Japan. Despite their busy schedules, witnessing the faculty's dedication to animals and their owners inspired me strongly to join the field of small animal practice in the future. In the exotic animal unit, every case was fascinating, and I encountered a lot of diseases not covered in my university courses, which deepened my motivation to study further. Seeing veterinary practice in Thailand reinforced my awareness that dedicated veterinarians work around the world, which was deeply reassuring and will be a source of encouragement as I pursue my career as a veterinarian. This realization was profoundly meaningful to me. I now feel committed to maintaining connections with veterinarians around the world throughout my future career as a small animal clinician.

Acknowledgments

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the program coordinators who made this experience possible: Professor Nonaka, Professor Aoshima, and Professor Sasaoka, the faculty members in charge of this program; Ms. Kawashima, the IVEP coordinator; Professor Horiuchi, who accompanied us to Thailand; Ms. Navapon from Chulalongkorn University who facilitated our integration; dedicated faculty members from Chulalongkorn University veterinary hospitals; and the Chulalongkorn University students who welcomed us warmly and supported our learning throughout this wonderful educational experience. This program significantly enhanced my veterinary knowledge, cultural awareness, and professional development in ways that will benefit my future career in veterinary medicine. Thank you very much.



Picture 1 : In the dermatology unit



Picture 2 : Auscultation of a Guinea Pig

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本プログラムでは、チュラロンコン大学（以下、CU）付属の小動物病院で、複数の科を週替わりで見学し、計4週間にわたる実習を行った。私は、北大ではあまり経験できない分野を学びたいと考え、エキゾチック科、救急科・入院室、リハビリテーション科・外科、ネコ科の診療に参加させていただいた。実習は、実際の診療現場に立ち合う形式で行われるが、タイ語が分からない私たちのために、先生方や6年生の学生が、飼い主の話を英語に通訳し、検査や治療方針についても英語で丁寧に説明してくださった。そのうえ驚いたことに、先生方だけでなく学生たちも、すらすらと専門用語を交えて説明してくれるのだ。

しかし、派遣当初の私は、獣医英語の知識が乏しく、初週のエキゾチック科では説明の内容を十分に理解できず、初日からかなり焦ることとなった。そこからは、登校前や帰宅後に必死で獣医英語を勉強する日々が始まった。習得には苦労したものの、覚えた知識は翌日の実習ですぐに活用できたため、吸収も早く、学ぶ意欲が自然と高まっていった。この経験を通じて、専門分野を英語で説明できる力の必要性を強く認識した。今後はこの力をさらに高めていきたい。また、これから本プログラムに参加する後輩たちには、獣医学の専門用語を事前に英語で学習しておくことを強く勧めたい。

本プログラムを通じて学びたいと考えていたことは主に2点あった。ひとつは、タイと日本における小動物臨床の違いについてである。CUの病院での診療に立ち会う中で、大学病院に限定した比較ではあるが、さまざまな違いに気づくことができた。

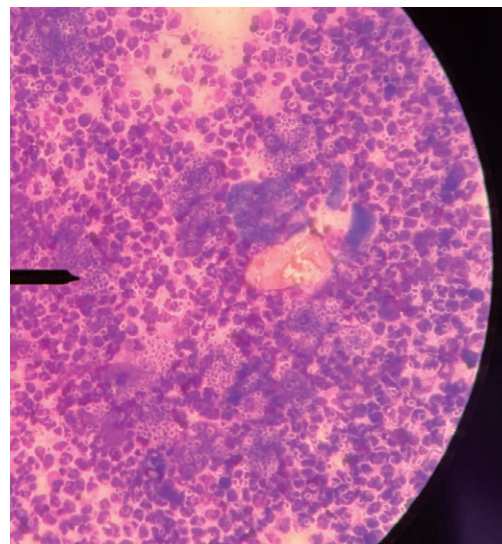
最も大きな違いは、北大病院が主にセカンドオピニオンを扱うのに対し、CU病院は一次病院の役割も担っている点である。そのため、一日あたりの症例数が非常に多く、ワクチン接種やフォローアップなどを行う総合科から各専門科までが1つの建物に集約され、軽症から重症まで多様な症例に対応できる体制が整っていた。

また、タイでは、日本ではあまり見られない寄生虫病や感染症が多いと感じた。実習中には、インコの脱羽の原因となったダニや、人獣共通感染症であるスポロトリコーシスを引き起こす真菌などを、実際の症例を通じて鏡検する機会を得た。救急科では、重度の貧血で来院した症例において、まず寄生虫感染を疑い、フィラリア、エーリキア症、ライム病のスナッフ検査やバベシアの検査を行っていたことも、日本との違いとして印象に残っている。

もうひとつは、タイにおける獣医学教育についてである。実習中は、CUの学生の主体性の高さに何度も驚かされた。タイでは5年次の終わりに国家試験があり、6年生はすでに獣医師免許を取得したうえで、各科をグループ単位でローテーションしながら、数か月間の実習を行う。身体検査や鏡検などの基本的な検査はまず学生が行い、その後先生が確認するというような流れが多く、学生たちは一つひとつの症例に非常に主体的に向き合っていた。

私の質問にも多くの学生が的確かつ丁寧に答えてくれ、座学で得た知識を現場で応用する力が養われていることを実感した。このような実践的な教育を可能にしているのは、症例数の多さとその幅広さというCU病院の特徴であると思う。日々の実習を通じて、学生たちが着実に知識や技術を習得していく姿に、大きな刺激を受けた。

最後に、多くの方々のお力添えのおかげで、このような貴重な経験をさせていただくことができた。私たちを温かく迎え入れ、丁寧に教えてくださった病院の先生方に心より感謝申し上げたい。また、実習中に出会った6年生の皆さんにも、病院内外のさまざまな場面で助けていただいた。その友好的な姿勢と優しさに深く感謝している。今回得た多くの学びを、今後の学業や進路を考えるうえでの糧としたい。



スポロトリコーシスの原因真菌



エキゾチックアニマル科にて



チャオプラヤ川とワットアルンの前で

学生氏名：大迫 想呼（獣医学部4年） IVEP チュラロンコン大学派遣

本派遣事業では、1か月の期間中に同大学の動物病院にて小動物臨床の現場を見学するとともに、土日などを用いて関心のある分野について学びを深めた。

どの体験も非常に学び豊かなものであったが、文字数の制約上本レポートにおいては特に、チュラロンコン大学動物病院（以下「病院」）での学びに加え、チャトチャック市場、国立動物衛生研究所（NIAH）、および野生動物保護区での見学について簡単に記す。

まず、病院で学んだことについて記す。

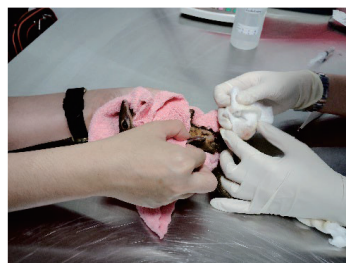
ここでは、私は、心疾患・腎疾患・糖尿病診療科、皮膚科、救急室・入院科、エキゾチック診療科の計4つの診療科にて、それぞれ1週間滞在し、小動物臨床の現場を見学させていただいた。ここでは各診療科で見た特色について述べた後、病院の診療の様子に関してエキゾチック診療科で見た症例のうち1つを紹介する。心疾患・腎疾患・糖尿病診療科では、心エコーの読み取りなどから日本を含めた国際的な疾患の基準の統一性を感じた。皮膚科では、多頭飼育や屋外飼育の慣習とも相関する病原体への感染症例に多くふれた。救急室・入院科では、危機的状況にある動物を目前にしたときの飼い主さんの決断における経済的問題の重要性と動物に対する愛情の葛藤を目の当たりにした（写真1）。エキゾチック診療科では、道などで拾われた動物を含め様々な動物の症例に触れた。ここで、エキゾチック診療科でみたツバイの直腸脱の症例を紹介する。ツバイはタイにも生息する野生動物であり、病院に来院した個体は幼少の時期に落下事故から保護されたということであった。病院に来る数時間前に気がついたということで、まずエキゾチック診療科において直腸の位置の回復を試みたが、困難と判断し、救急室にむかった（写真2）。そこでは、複数の先生で協力し、直腸の骨盤腔内への復帰と肛門周囲を糸で囲うことによる再脱出防止が達成された。その後、さらに腸重積のリスクを排除するため画像診断科に向かい、問題がなかったため帰宅となった。この症例では、それぞれの科に分かれて獣医学の中でもさらに専門的な知識を持つ先生方が、診断や状態に応じて協力し、治療にあたる病院の協力体制が垣間見られた。

次に、他の施設で見学したものについて述べる。

チャトチャック市場では、バラエティに富んだ種の動物がかなり高密度な飼育環境において非常に安価に取引されているなど、タイにおける動物産業の「闇」ともいえる現場を目にすることができた。NIAHでは、タイと日本の歴史的つながりや公機関の動物の感染症への制御の取り組みの一端をご説明いただくとともに目にするとともに、一方で上記市場や抗菌薬売買状況などに関して公機関の介入により現状解決が困難な状況も伺われた（写真3）。野生動物保護区では、サルやゾウについて法律上家畜とされたり、ペット産業のみならず観光業や他国への輸出のため違法に飼育されたりするなど、「野生動物」と「産業動物」の複雑に関係するタイの社会の中で生



【写真1】セミナー後の記念撮影（ER/CCUにて）



【写真2】診察されるツバイ（エキゾチック診療科にて）



【写真3】チャトチャック市場（NIAHにて）

きてきた動物たちを目にすることができた。

続いて、これらを踏まえ感じたことを簡単に述べる。上述のように、タイにおける動物をめぐる現状は複雑であり、そのうち問題と考えられる点も解決が容易ではないことが感じられた。しかしまた、動物をめぐる経済にかかわる人々は、大学病院の先生やスタッフさん、学生は勿論、飼い主さんなど動物に対して愛情もっていることも伺われた。そして、私自身、将来に関して未だ考えている中ではあるが、今回の滞在を通じて、ある種の信頼感を抱いた。機会があればぜひ、共通する価値観を踏まえ、課題の解決に向けて協力したい。

最後に、本プログラムにおいて、お世話になった方々に感謝申し上げる。特に、機会をくださったチュラロンコン大学動物病院および北海道大学の派遣事業に携わる先生方、病院でお世話になった診療科の先生とスタッフならびに学生の皆様、ならびにNIAHの職員さんには格別の御礼を申し上げる。

学生氏名: 門脇 日菜々 (獣医学部4年) IVEP チュラロンコン大学派遣

今回は、タイ王国にあるチュラロンコン大学 (CU) の動物病院にて、4週間の実習を受けた。最初に驚いたのは、CU の動物病院が北大よりはるかに多くの科に細分化されていること、そして複数の建物から成り、最も大きいメインの建物は 10 階建てというその規模の大きさである。事前学習やオリエンテーションで規模が大きいことを知ってはいたが、実際に自分の目で見ると、部屋、獣医師、患者のどの数も北大とは桁違いで衝撃を受けた。本実習では4つの診療科を選び、それぞれの科で1週間ずつ、小動物臨床を中心とした研修を受けた。私は猫科、エキゾチック科、病理学ユニット、リハビリテーション・外科ユニットを訪れた。全ての派遣生が毎週異なる科を選択していたため、どの週も日本人は自分一人で、最初はかなり不安があった。また、タイの人の話す英語は、普段日本の授業で聞く英語とはアクセントなどが異なり、知っているはずの単語が聞き取れない、という問題に直面した。しかし、先生方は熱心に理解できるまで説明してくださり、クリニカルローテーションで一緒になった学生たちもわかりやすい英語で教えてくれた。また、自分の耳も徐々にタイの人の話す英語に慣れていき、症例やその治療法を理解できるようになり、楽しいと感じる瞬間が増えていった。私は熱帯地域特有の症例を見たいと思っていたため、本報告書では印象的だった2つの症例について記す。

1つ目は、1週目に訪れた猫科で見たスポロトリコーシスの症例である。これは土壌や植物に生息する真菌によって引き起こされる人獣共通感染症である。主に皮膚の傷から感染し、症状としては皮膚に結節が生じ、感染が拡大するとリンパ節が腫大することもある。日本ではほとんど見られないが、タイでは近年、スポロトリコーシスと診断される猫が増加している。しかし、この背景には、かつてはクリプトコッカスと勘違いされていた症例が正しくはスポロトリコーシスであったと判明したケースも多いと考えられており、本症例の数そのものが増えているわけではないと知った。この後の先生の説明で、タイでは真菌や寄生虫による感染症が多いことを知り、最初に日本との違いを実感した瞬間であった。実際に CU の学生に授業資料を見せてもらったが、スポロトリコーシスについて原因や感染経路、診断法まで詳しく書いてあった。私の授業資料ではスポロトリコーシスに関する記述が数行しかなかったため、彼らも驚いていた。よく見られる症例が異なれば、学ぶ内容も異なるのだと感じるとともに、日本以外で多く見られる病気についてももっと知っておくべきだと感じた。

2つ目は、3週目に訪れた病理学ユニットで見た犬のピシウム症の症例である。これは *Pythium insidiosum* と呼ばれる卵菌によって引き起こされる人獣共通感染症である。熱帯や亜熱帯地域に特有で、日本ではヒトを含めて3件ほどしか確認されていない。難治性ではあるが、近年、抗菌剤が効くことが判明している。猫では口腔、肛門周囲、消化管、鼻腔など様々な部位に病変を形成するが、犬では消化管に腫瘤を形成する消化管ピシウム症が典型である。本症例でも、腸管に多くの腫瘤が形成され、内部を物が通れない状態になっていた。また、剖検により胃に水が貯留していることが判明したため、犬が屋外の水を飲んだ際に菌も一緒に飲んでしまったと考えられる。この他にも、病理学ユニットでは、ほとんど毎日午前中に剖検を行った。犬や猫、ウサギだけでなく、ウミガメやリクガメの剖検も行うことができたのは非常によい経験になった。

本実習では、上記の2つ以外にも非常に多くの症例を見ることができた。最後に、最初は英語に不安がありましたが、北大および CU の先生方や学生のおかげで、実習、日常生活ともに充実した1か月となりました。この貴重な経験をするにあたりご協力くださった方々に感謝申し上げます。



写真1：ピシウム症の犬の腸管



写真2：猫科での集合写真



写真3：ウミガメの剖検

学生氏名：若林 亜美 (獣医学部4年) IVEP チュラロンコン大学派遣

私は、8月17日から9月14日まで行われたタイのチュラロンコン大学 (CU) への派遣プログラムに参加し、皮膚科・イメージングセンター・エキゾチックアニマル科・救急外来を1週間ずつ回りました。小動物病院でのローテーションの雰囲気、それぞれの科で経験したことを紹介します。

CUの小動物病院は猫科、眼科、腫瘍科など10以上の診療科に分かれており、10階建ての建物と2つの別棟で構成されていました。北大とは異なり1次診療から2次診療まで幅広い患者が毎日多く訪れていました。診察は基本的には8時開始16時終了で、私もこの診察時間に合わせて診療科に向かい、先生の側で診察や検査の見学をしました。飼い主の方と先生の会話はタイ語のため、診察中はなぜ来院したのか、どういった診察をしているのかをよく見て予想し、診察の合間に分からないことを英語で質問したり、カルテの英語の部分を読んだりして理解に努めました。実習の始めは英語の専門用語が上手く聞き取れず苦労しました。ですが、CUの先生・学生は皆優しく、より分かりやすい言葉に置きかえてくれたりスペルを紙に書いてくれたり忙しい中でも優しく対応してくださいました。CUでは獣医学の授業はタイ語で行われるものの、レジュメは全て英語で記載されているそうです。そのため、英語の獣医学用語はどの学生も頭に入っておりCUのハイレベルな獣医学教育を実感しました。

皮膚科ではマラセチア、アトピー性皮膚炎といった皮膚疾患や、クッシング症候群による脱毛などの疾患を見ることができました。炎症部位をスタンプしたスライドの染色や細菌・マラセチアのグレード判定をさせていただきました。

イメージングセンターでは、大学内の別の科から依頼を受けて超音波検査・レントゲン・CT・MRI撮影を行い、診断書を書くことが業務でした。特に、レントゲンは学生と動物看護師のみで撮影し、獣医師は読影に専念するという効率の良さが印象的でした。レントゲンでは子宮蓄膿症やフィラリア患者、超音波検査では水腎症などを見ることができました。CT・MRI撮影では麻酔薬の承認の関係でメドトミジンではなくデクスメドトミジンを使っているなど、日本と使用している薬剤に違いがあり面白さを感じました。

エキゾチックアニマル科では、ニキビダニに感染したハムスター、エンセファリトゾーン症のウサギ、ペロースのインコの雛など様々な動物を見ることができました。肺高血圧症のモルモットの聴診、ハリネズミの超音波検査時の保定、インコのそのう液から顕微鏡でカンジダを探すなど、様々な体験をさせてもらいました。

救急外来は24時間稼働しており、大動脈血栓塞栓症による下半身麻痺、列車との交通事故外傷、ワクチンアレルギーなどの患者が運ばれてきました。左半身に深い傷を負った野良の子猫が運ばれてきた際には、経済的事情と障害が残ってしまうことからその場で安楽死処置が行われるなど辛い場面も目にしましたが、できる範囲内で動物と飼い主にとって最善を尽くすことの重要性を学びました。

タイでの生活は毎日が新鮮でした。平日の昼食は学食で食べる事が多く、1食あたり300円と安く美味しかったです。気候は本州の夏を少し蒸し暑くした感じで、雨は夕方から夜に降っていました。観光では様々な場所に行きましたが、特にスネークファームや人体の標本で有名なシリラート博物館、コビトカバのムーデンが人気のカオキアオ動物園が興味深かったです。

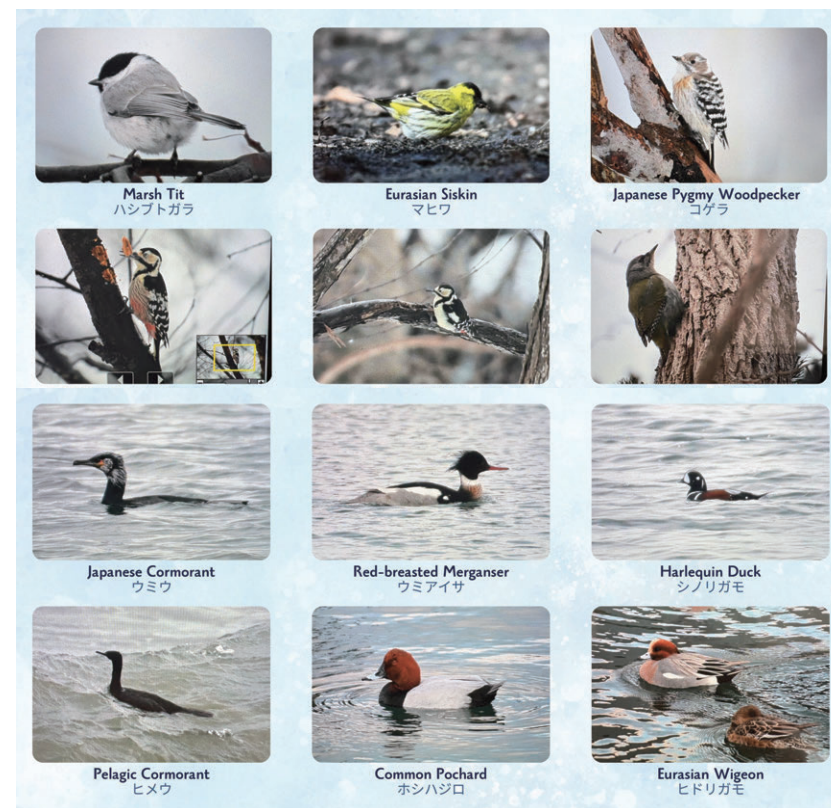
最後に、本プログラムの担当教員である野中先生、青島先生、笹岡先生をはじめ、IVEPご担当者の川島さん、引率の堀内先生、CUのNavaponさん、指導して下さった北大、CU動物病院の先生方とお世話になった学生の皆さんに心から感謝申し上げます。ありがとうございました。

写真 1: カオキアオ動物園のコビトカバ



IVEP

Hokkaido University-Chulalongkorn University International Vet Exchange Program 2025 Achieving Global Standards of Excellence in Veterinary Education



Student Report from Chulalongkorn University March 2nd to 29th 2026

From Chulalongkorn University

KOTENATE Nerajit (Nera), 6th year

Study abroad used to be my dream when I was younger. From that point of view, it seemed impossible for me because I did not know how to reach this point. However, the International Vet Exchange Program (IVEP) gave me very valuable experiences. These experiences that cannot be measured by money.

At the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Hokkaido University, the education system is very well structured. Every student looks professional and smart. The learning environment is my favorite part of this place. The professors and staff are very friendly and willing to teach us. This makes me want to pass on this experience to junior students in my country. In terms of technology, the teaching hospital has very advanced equipment that impressed me, such as a radiotherapy machine and ultrasound machines. The echocardiography images were very clear, with minimal noise and grain. The MRI and CT scan machines are also very modern. The most impressive part for me was the observation room for surgery. We had a chance to observe a mitral valvuloplasty (MVP) for the correction of mitral valve insufficiency, which I had never seen before.

One of the biggest differences between my home university and Hokkaido University is the intensity of students' involvement in laboratory work. At Hokkaido University, students are highly engaged in both laboratory practice and research, while at my home university, this aspect is less emphasized. This makes me feel how strongly Hokkaido University supports research. I believe this is a key factor for long-term development and improves the quality of education.

For the non-academic part, I had the opportunity to explore many places around Hokkaido, such as Otaru, Asari, Asahiyama, Shirahige Waterfall, and Rusutsu Ski Resort. Through these experiences, I was able to appreciate both the natural beauty and the urban lifestyle of the region. More importantly, this experience was not only about traveling, but also about learning how to live as part of the local community rather than just being a tourist. I learned to adapt to the local culture, including understanding daily life and practicing basic Japanese for communication. This helped me feel more connected to the people and the environment around me. I was also deeply impressed by the kindness of the people here. They were very welcoming and friendly, which made my experience even more meaningful. This place has become one of my most favorite destinations. In addition, I built many valuable friendships during my time here. My friends were very supportive and helped me in many ways, and I truly appreciate all of them.



Pic 1. Memory with Our Supportive Staff, Seniors, and Friends.



Pic 2. My Favorite Group Photo at the Lecture Building.

From Chulalongkorn University

CHAYUT Boonekarat (Sun), 6th year

My internship in Hokkaido University in March 2026 (2-19 Mar) was a valuable time for me. I gained many experiences in veterinary fields such as internal medicine, surgery, and laboratory rotations. In addition, I had the opportunity to experience life in Japan, travel, and learn more about its culture.

Since most of the cases here were referred from private hospitals, which is different from Chulalongkorn University, I had the opportunity to encounter more complex cases. I also gained experience with diagnostic techniques that are less commonly performed in Thailand, such as CT scan and MRI, which were used quite frequently here. Furthermore, participating in morning rounds and discussing cases with professors and clinicians provided me with valuable new insights. For instance, I learned more about PIMA and the application of ultrasonography in diagnosing portosystemic shunts (PSS). I also learned practical techniques in ultrasonography and echocardiography from a Thai PhD senior. One of the most impressive aspects was the ability of each clinician to take full responsibility for their cases throughout the entire process.

In the surgery department, I was especially excited to observe an open-heart surgical technique for repairing mitral regurgitation. This is a highly specialized procedure at this university and something I had never encountered in Thailand before. Additionally, the workflow in the operating room here is also different from our hospital. During consultation days, I also had the chance to observe the radiation therapy unit and learn its fundamental principles, which are not yet available at my home institution.

The laboratory rotation was the most impressive part of my experience. I had the opportunity to learn about various research projects at Hokkaido University across different laboratories. I visited a total of 16 laboratories. As part of this experience, I also toured the animal facility and the necropsy unit in another building. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to practice paraffin block trimming using the Japanese technique, which differs from the approach used in Thailand. The advanced research environment here greatly inspired me and motivated me to pursue further studies in the future.

Life outside the university was another aspect I was really looking forward to, as Hokkaido is well known for its beautiful natural environment. In particular, I was excited about birdwatching and able to see and photograph several species, such as the Long-tailed Tit (シマエナガ), Black Woodpecker (クマガラ), and White-tailed Eagle (オジロワシ). I was also very grateful to my Japanese friends, who kindly drove us to explore many beautiful places, such as Asahiyama Zoo, Shirahige Waterfall, the Lonely Christmas Tree in Biei, Hitsujigaoka Observation Hill, Makomanai Takino

Field trip at Asahiyama zoo with Lin, Moe (IVEP 2024) and Fawn (Thai PhD student)



Dinner at Soup Curry COCORO with Minana, Soyo, Hana, Ami (IVEP 2025)



Morning round in the internal medicine department



Cemetery, and Mount Moiwa. I also had the chance to visit Hokkaido Jingu Shrine, Otaru, Lake Utonai, and Mukawa. I also tried skiing for the first time at Rusutsu Ski Resort. All of these experiences will remain unforgettable for me.

From Chulalongkorn University

Rapee Luangyawee (Chin), 6th year

My IVEP program took place from March 1 to March 19, 2026. Over the course of these three weeks, the experiences I gained far exceeded my expectations and have become truly meaningful memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

During my time at Hokkaido University, I learned a great deal, which I can summarize into three main areas: 1. Clinical practice in Internal Medicine, 2. Clinical practice in Surgery, and 3. Laboratory tours and research discussions. For the first two areas, which involve clinical practice, I had the opportunity to observe a highly standardized hospital system accredited by European standards. The hospital environment was excellent, thoughtfully designed with the well-being of animals in mind. I was also able to witness procedures that are not commonly seen in Thailand, along with advanced medical equipment and rare clinical cases, such as PIMA. Studying here has greatly broadened my perspective as a future veterinarian. It allowed me to observe how professionals work in another country, their communication styles, and most importantly, the strong sense of teamwork within the veterinary hospital. In terms of surgery, this was my first time observing a procedure to correct mitral valve regurgitation. I was deeply impressed by how every staff member in the operating room worked together as a cohesive team, each with clearly defined roles, collaborating to ensure the success of the procedure. It was truly a remarkable opportunity for me. I was also particularly impressed by the operating rooms, which were spacious, exceptionally clean, and designed with a well-organized, contamination-controlled workflow. For the laboratory tours and research discussions, I had the opportunity to visit 16 laboratories, spending one hour in each. What impressed me most from the very beginning was the people—professors and staff members who warmly welcomed us into their classes. They prepared the materials thoroughly and shared their knowledge generously. Each laboratory provided valuable insights and reflected the faculty's strong dedication to advancing research. This experience also helped me better understand the areas in which Hokkaido University excels in research.



One clear difference I observed between Hokkaido University and Chulalongkorn University was the number of cases handled per day at the veterinary hospital. As a referral center, all cases must be referred from other hospitals with proper documentation beforehand. This system helps regulate the number of cases and allows clinicians to anticipate the type of cases they will manage each day, enabling better and more focused preparation. Additionally, the diagnostic approach here is very thorough, often pursued to its fullest extent to identify the root cause. Advanced diagnostic imaging is performed daily, and efforts are made to reach a definitive diagnosis within the same day of admission. Another notable difference is the educational system. Students here are required to choose a laboratory based on their interests and are assigned to their own lab, which fosters diverse academic passions among students. The design and layout of the operating rooms also differ from those at Chulalongkorn University.

What made this program especially meaningful for international students was the people we encountered throughout the program. Everyone was incredibly kind, approachable, and always willing to help. We felt a strong sense of warmth every time we were on campus. The professors were supportive and caring, always eager to teach and guide us. The IVEP staff consistently checked in on us, organized activities, helped us learn Japanese, and patiently assisted with all necessary documentation. The seniors and friends we met here also took great care of us. Even though many of us had only just met, we quickly formed close bonds, thanks to everyone's kindness and friendliness.

Lastly, this is a program that I would wholeheartedly recommend to all my peers and juniors at Chulalongkorn University. I truly hope they will have the opportunity to experience the same enriching academic environment, the warmth of the community, and the fascinating culture of Japan—a country that never ceases to captivate, no matter how long one stays.

