

To Kasetsart University

Makiko KAMETANI, 5th year

This program is the longest of IVEP exchange programs, lasting a total of six weeks (one week for aquatic animals, four weeks for large animals, and one week for exotic animals), and I had some hesitation and anxiety when applying for the program. However, I really enjoyed the many new experiences I had during the program, and I am glad that I was able to participate in this program. The following is a summary of what I experienced and learned in each unit.

1. Aquatic Animal Unit

Although the Aquatic Animal Unit was only one week long, I think I was able to learn intensively and efficiently. We first learned how to keep and manage shrimp and fish in the classroom, and then went to visit aquaculture farms, where we tested the water quality and considered the problems. In Japan, I had only learned about fish and shrimp diseases, so it was good that I could first learn the basics of aquatic animal aquaculture, such as the growth stages of each species, and the optimal environment. It was also a good experience for me to visit the aquaculture farm with Thai students, where we had a chance to inspect the aquaculture together and discuss the best management methods.

2. Large Animal Unit

The Large Animal Unit consisted of three weeks for ruminants and one week for horses, and I was able to experience a variety of cases.

In the ruminant unit, I mainly went to farms with veterinarians, and I was able to observe the treatment of various cases and perform simple examinations and treatments. Although we did not see any cases of foot-and-mouth disease, when we went to farms in the FMD outbreak area, we had to return to the hospital to disinfect the vehicles and boots before leaving for the next farm, which made us realize the extent of the impact of the FMD outbreak on production grounds. It was also a valuable experience for me to see cows with infections such as lumpy skin disease, which we cannot see in Japan. There were also many cows with mastitis and metritis, which made me realize that reproductive diseases are a big problem in Thailand as well as Japan. Since my research is on cow calving, I was able to reconfirm the importance of proper calving management, and I think it has motivated me to do more research. During the examination, the doctor would sometimes ask us what kind of treatment we thought would be best, so we were able to think and learn on our own.

In addition to clinical treatment, it was also a great experience to visit cattle and goat farms to learn about breeding and husbandry management. This visit has made me more interested in farm management and administration, and I would like to learn more about it after returning to Japan for practical training. Furthermore, I learned a lot about artificial insemination and surgery of goats, which is not easy to learn about in Japan.

In the horse unit, we were able to visit a riding club and see horses with a hoof disease shaving its hoof. I had never seen how horses are exercised or how they are shaved



TPR measurement on a young goat

under general anesthesia before, so it was a good learning experience for me. A horse in the hospital had artificial legs, which made me think again about euthanasia. I had never had any doubts about euthanizing horses whose legs had to be amputated, but I was surprised that the horses with artificial legs seemed to walk more normally than I expected. I could feel that the concept of euthanasia and the treatment plan are influenced by cultural and religious backgrounds, and that they are totally different from country to country and from person to person.

3. Exotic Animal Unit

In the Exotic Animal Unit, we spent one day learning about wild animals and four days seeing a variety of animal cases at the Exotic Animal Hospital. In the wild animal unit, we were able to learn about handling and injection methods at a raptor facility. It is regrettable that we could not learn about elephants because there were no elephant cases, but it was interesting to learn how to use tranquilizer guns and blowguns and to practice with targets.

At the hospital, it was exciting to learn about diseases and treatments for animals that I had not studied so much before, such as turtles, rabbits, snakes, and parrots. I thought it was interesting that each animal has its own unique diseases and examination methods.



Injections to raptor

In this program, I was able to learn about a wide range of topics from management to treatment methods for diseases. Furthermore, I was able to improve my skills in clinical practices by experiencing practical examinations and treatment methods. I also felt that I was able to learn how to learn on initiative by submitting reports and giving presentations on what I had thought about and researched on my own.

Due to the program schedule, I was able to study with the Thai students only in the Aquatic Animal Unit, but it was good to be able to go out to eat and play badminton together and interact with them. I thought it was great that the Thai people, not only the students but also the teachers and the staff at the university, were all kind and friendly, and that they seemed to be enjoying their daily lives without being concerned about efficiency or profitability more than necessary.

By putting myself in an environment that is completely different from my usual one, I was able to look at myself objectively and realize the abilities I needed and what I want to learn more about. I will never forget to thank the teachers who gave me this valuable opportunity, the Thai teachers and students, the members who went with me, and the seniors in my laboratory who did the work for me, and I hope to apply what I learned and felt in Thailand to my school life and my future.



At Erawan National Park

To Kasetsart University

Seira KAWAI, 5th year

I took part in the program to Kasetsart University from October 8th to November 20th. I would like to write the lifestyle and what I learned in Thailand.

In this program, there were 4 units, aquatic animals, exotic & wildlife, equine, and large animal. In aquatic unit, we learned the management of water and many ways for aquaculture. In Hokkaido University, I only learned the infectious diseases of aquatic animals, so everything I learned was new to me, and interesting. We visited goldfish and shrimp farm for field trip, and the owners explained the management of the farm, and we examined the water, and collected blood from shrimp. I didn't know that we could collect blood from shrimp, so it was interesting. I had an impression that veterinarians for aquatic animals placed importance on water management, so they explained what happened when pH or temperature in water changed. I could understand that water management was important for preventing diseases.



Blood collection from the sheep

In large animal unit, we attended the farm visiting and learned the treatment for cattle, goat, and sheep in Nong Pho and Kamphaeng Saen. In this unit we could see the tetanus and lumpy skin disease which are rarely seen in Japan. One of the purpose to join this program was to see the infectious diseases that are not spread in Japan, so I could achieve one of my objectives. Also, we could practice blood collection, injection, rectal palpation, and other things. I could touch the ovary by rectal palpation and observe the ovary by ultrasonographic examination for the first time in my life in large animal unit, so I was really glad about that. Moreover, we could visit beef farm, where the owner grew the Kamphaeng Saen original beef. The owner explained that this farm used the methane gas from feces to create original compost that



Rectal palpation

made from feces. Also, this farm had grazing system that based on the prevention of parasites. I found this management was interesting because this farm considered environment, profit, and prevention of diseases. Some farms had this kind of thoroughly management, on the other hand, many farms didn't have recording system, so they sometimes didn't know the history of the cattle. Also, many farms were small size compared to Japan, and some farmers preferred natural breeding rather than artificial insemination. It was very interesting to know that there were



Cattle in Thailand

many differences for management between Japan and Thailand. The beef cattle in Thailand was a mix breed of Thai native cattle and cattle from the USA or France. It had big ears, and it was much cuter than Holstein, in my opinion. However, some cattle were aggressive when I tried to inject or collect blood, so I thought that the handling of cattle in everyday life was important. In large animal unit, we learned not only cattle, but also goat and sheep. The most impressive cases were the surgery of extra teat and entropion. It

cutting of extra teat was necessary for the competition of goat, so this surgery was quite characteristic in Thailand. As for entropion, we learned it in Japan, but I had never seen this surgery before, so it was very interesting to me.

In exotic & wildlife unit, we saw the cases of rabbits, snakes, wild raptors, and many other animals. We also visited parrots' farm. I have never seen the treatment of each animals, so every treatment was interesting to me. However, the most impressive animal was raptors. I was able to learn how to retain raptors, how to do the physical examination, how to measure the body condition score, where to collect the blood and so on. Especially, the retention is important when veterinarians do examination or treatment, it was very interesting to learn how to retain raptors safely.

From this part, I would like to write about my lifestyle in Thailand. In this 6 weeks program, I was able to eat various Thai food. Many Thai food were too spicy for me, but almost all Thai food was delicious. The most favorite Thai food is Khao Soi, which is one kind of curry noodle, originated from Chiang Mai. I ate this Khao Soi many times in this 6-week-stay in Thailand. Also, I could travel to many places such as Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Kanchanaburi during this program. There were many fun events during this 6-week-program, but there was only one thing that I hated when it happened. It was that there were many insects in the dormitory.



Khao Soi

I rarely see insects in daily life, so I had many troubles with insects in Thailand. However, thanks to the insecticide I bought in a supermarket, I was able to live a peace life without insects. I was able to overcome this problem with insecticide which had very strong effects.

The impression on Thai people I got from this experience is that they are so kind and friendly to people. For example, the teachers and students in Kasetsart University tried to explain what I didn't understand until I understood. Also, they told us their recommendation of sightseeing and restaurants, and they even took us to nice restaurants. They took care of us through our stay in Thailand. Moreover, I got an impression on Thai people that they took good care of themselves, and they lived their life they liked. For example, the veterinarians took break in a café during the farm visiting. In Japan, it might be difficult to do that while they work, so I really envy that Thai style working. Additionally, Thai students seemed enjoying their student life as veterinary students, and I was really inspired by such kind of attitude. I only have one year left before graduation, but I would like to enjoy the rest of my student life.

I would like to say thank you to the teachers and my parents who gave me this valuable experience, and also to my friends, Thai students, and teachers, who made this 6-week-stay enjoyable. I will make the best use of this experience.

To Kasetsart University

Shintaro NAKAGAWA, 5th year

During our stay at Kasetsart University, we spent most of our time at the Kamphaeng Saen campus. We studied aquatic animals for one week, large animals for three weeks, horses for one week, and exotic animals for one week out of the six weeks of our stay.

1. Aquatic unit

During the first week, we attended lectures on aquatic animals and visited a shrimp and goldfish farm. In the lectures, we learned about the aquaculture in Thailand, style of farm, and aquaculture management. We learned that water quality control is particularly important in aquaculture management, and that diseases in aquaculture farms are prevented by controlling various indicators such as ammonia concentration, dissolved oxygen, pH and so on. At a shrimp farm, we learned how to collect blood from shrimp and experienced firsthand. In Japan, there are not many opportunities to learn about aquatic animals, and we do not have this kind of experience, so this was a valuable experience for us.

2. Large animal unit

Weeks 2, 4 and 5, we spent in the large animal unit and learned about the treatment of cattle, sheep, and goats.

The second week, we spent at Nong Pho, which the university's large animal clinic is located. Basically, we accompanied the doctors on their house visits and did physical examinations, took blood samples, administered medicines, and learned about the cases. In Nong Pho, I was able to see cases of lumpy skin disease and cases of foot-and-mouth disease in the past, which I had never seen in Japan. I was also able to improve my practical skills in large animals through many physical examinations and blood sampling. Among the cases I saw at Nong Pho, I was especially impressed by a treatment method called maternal rotation method in a case of uterine torsion. Although it is a treatment method that I had learned in Japan, this treatment method is very dynamic, and I was shocked when I actually saw five adults holding a cow down and rotating it.

During the fourth and fifth weeks, I accompanied the doctors on large animal house visits at the Kamphaeng Saen campus. At the Kamphaeng Saen campus, we often treated small ruminants such as goats and sheep. I gained a lot of experience by doing pregnancy tests on dozens of goats and taking blood samples from about 20 sheep per person in one day. Since it was rare to see goats and sheep at our university, it was very interesting to see how these animals were raised and treated.

3. Equine unit

During the third week, we learned about horses.

On the first day, we went to equestrian club in the suburbs of Bangkok to learn about lameness diagnosis and the environment in which the horses are kept. It was difficult for me to distinguish which leg has the lameness.

From the second day onward, we stayed at the horse clinic in the Kamphaeng Saen campus to observe the treatment of horses that came to the clinic. Many of the horses that came to the clinic had hoof problems, and I was surprised to find that the cause of these problems was often over-shaving of the hoof. In Japan, most horses are bred for horse racing and riding, and their hooves are trimmed by a hoof trimmer. In Thailand, however, many horses are privately owned, and the owners trim their

hooves, and this is why they are prone to hoof diseases. During the week in the Equine unit where we were, hoof disease cases were the most frequent, and we saw the hoof surgeries which were performed under general anesthesia.

4. Exotic unit

During the sixth week, we learned about exotic animal and wildlife care at an exotic clinic on campus. The clinic treated parrots, turtles, snakes, rabbits, and other animals, and treated protected wildlife such as wild turtles and wild birds. Compared to Japan, I had the impression that there were more medium to large-sized parrots, and was surprised to see animals such as macaws, which in Japan are almost only seen in zoos, being kept in Thailand. I also heard that some animals, such as slow lorises, are kept illegally, which made me sad and think that similar problems exist both in Japan and Thailand.

It was the first time for me to see exotic animals being treated. Each species has different anatomical structures, as well as different methods of blood collection and retention, and everything I learned was new and very stimulating. In particular, the positions of the organs of turtles are very different from those of mammals, and when I first saw the x-ray images, I was confused as to what organs were where.



sampling from cockatoo

During the week, we spent one day at the university's raptor rehabilitation center and elephant clinic to learn about wildlife. At the raptor rehabilitation center, we learned about the treatment of protected wild raptor, such as owls which lost one wing and hawks with bumblefoot. I heard the center is funded by donations, and I felt that the lack of funds for wildlife protection is a big problem.

Since there were no elephants at the elephant clinic that day, we learned about blowguns instead. The structure of the arrow was different from what we were taught in Japan, but the way of use and blowgun were the same as in Japan. We practiced how to use blowguns, CO2 guns, and anesthesia guns, and competed for target shooting scores. It was very fun.

5. Life in Thailand

Thai students were very friendly and took us out for dinner and drinking party after school, and we also played badminton together. In our life in Thailand, we basically bought our meals from the market and 7-Eleven, and the food was very low-priced and delicious. The service at 7-Eleven was better than in Japan, and the hot sandwiches cooked by a hot sandwich maker were especially delicious. However, we need to be careful because if we are not careful, we can be hit by extremely spicy food. I suffered from stomach problems twice due to spicy food.

Although I had classes every weekday, I went on trips on weekends. I went to Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket, and other places for sightseeing, saw temples, went diving, and spent a fulfilling weekend.

6. Summary

During the six weeks I spent in Thailand, I was able to have many experiences that I could not have in Japan. I also strongly felt the warmth of the Thai people. They are very kind, and doctors treat animals with deep affection. I would like to emulate this part of the Thai people.

In addition, through the program, I keenly realized how immature my English was. Thai students usually take classes in English, and they were actively discussing in class, using English everything from daily conversation to technical terms. I strongly felt that I would like to study English hard for my future and be able to communicate in English without any difficulties.

Finally, I would like to appreciate all the teachers who were involved in this program, IVEP office staff, my classmates and Thai students who had a great time in Thailand with me.



at a temple in Bangkok

To Kasetsart University

Honoka NISHIMURA, 5th year

The IVEP program at Kasetsart University in FY2022 lasted 6 weeks from Oct. 8 (Sat) to Nov. 20 (Sun), with the Aquatic Unit in week 1, Large Animal Unit in Nong Pho in week 2, Equine Unit in week 3, Large Animal Unit in Kamphaeng Saen in week 4-5, and Exotic Unit in week 6.

1. Aquatic Unit

The Aquatic Unit consisted of fish training on Monday and Tuesday, and shrimp training on Wednesday and Thursday. The first day was a lecture, and the second day was a visit to an aquaculture farm. A presentation on fish was given on Friday morning. Throughout the entire course, we were taught about fish and shrimp management methods and diseases. I had no idea about water quality management, aquaculture methods, or shrimp diseases, so everything I



Goldfish farm with Thailand students

learned was new to me. For the fish training, we went to a goldfish farm, and for the shrimp training, we went to an outdoor farm. I was impressed by the fact that banana trees are crushed to maintain water quality. At the farm, we tested the water quality with Thai students and discussed the results. In our presentation, we presented what we had learned about the goldfish farm.

2. Large Animal Unit

The students went to the university in the morning, and went to some farms with 2 veterinarians, and observed the medical treatment at the university when we returned early. In addition to basic diseases



Blood collection of 80 goats

such as mastitis, perinatal diseases, and hoof diseases, we were also able to see rare cases such as Lumpy skin disease, tetanus, eye entropion, and an adult freemartin cow. Because of the university's emphasis on clinical care, we were allowed to practice a lot of blood collection and injections on the patients. I was particularly impressed by the fact that five of us drew blood from 80 goats. Also, during the doctor's visit departing from Kamphaensan, in addition to the veterinarian making the visit, another veterinarian came to explain the case to us, so we were able to learn very carefully about each case. It was very exciting because every day there was one disease at least that we had never seen before. On the last day, we chose two cases from the three-week course, and the five of us divided the work among ourselves and gave a presentation.

3. Equine Unit

On the first day, we visited a horse riding club and observed the diagnosis of lameness.

On the second day, we were allowed to practice blood sampling, injection, and gastric evacuation of horses at a demonstration farm. On the third and fourth days, we observed surgical operations for severe hoof diseases. The tools and medicines used were different from those used in Japan, so it was

very interesting. We were also able to learn about the situation of horses in Thailand and the differences in the way of thinking about animals. For example, in Japan, horses that can no longer run are culled, but in Thailand, some horses are hospitalized with artificial legs and have been kept for long days until now.

4. Exotic Unit

We stayed in the exotic unit of a small animal hospital for a day and observed a case. In the morning, we were often allowed to practice treatment. We practiced examining rabbits for nasolacrimal duct disorders, taking blood samples from turtles, handling snakes, and testing parrots and other birds for viruses. One day was also a wildlife day, and in the morning we went to a raptor hospital to practice handling, physical examination, swab collection for virus testing, and blood collection. In the afternoon, we practiced with anesthesia guns. It was very interesting to actually experience how different types of anesthesia guns have completely different accuracy and distance. If we were lucky, we could have seen an elephant being treated, but it had already been discharged from the hospital. On another day, we went to a parrot farm, where we were shown rare species of parrots and macaws that are registered under the CITES, and were taught how to identify the species.

5. Life in Thailand, interaction with students

We interacted with Thai students who were coming to Japan from January to March and two classes of students in the Aquatic Unit. They were very kind and showed us around the campus, took us to the market, and had dinner with us. They took the trouble to pick me up at the dormitory by car without making any unpleasant faces, and we talked to each other about Thailand, Japan, veterinary medicine, daily life, and many other things, ranging from the trivial to the important.



Playing badminton with Thailand students

Life in Thailand was different from Japan in many ways. The climate was of course different, with sudden downpours of rain, high humidity, and strong sunlight. We ate out at night markets, cafeterias, and restaurants near the university. All were very inexpensive and delicious. The only other thing was that sometimes the food was so spicy that I got a stomach ache.

6. Overall

All the teachers were very polite and explained everything in easy-to-understand English. When I didn't understand something, they changed the wording and explained until I understood. They also patiently listened to my questions until I understood what they were trying to say, and answered them in great detail.

In addition to the abundance of knowledge of the teachers, I was very surprised at the high level of the Thai students. Not only were they all fluent in English and knowledgeable, but I was also impressed by the fact that most of them had a clear reason for deciding on their future. When I asked students why they wanted to become such certain veterinarians, they gave me so many reasons. I felt that this was an indication not only of the high level of education at Kasetsart University, but also of their willingness to take classes and the interest of the classes themselves, which in turn nurtures excellent students.

Of course, I learned a lot about veterinary medicine this time. In addition, my studies in Thailand and being inspired by the students gave me an opportunity to think deeply about what kind of veterinarian I want to be in the future and what I want to do beyond that. What I gained from this program was an unforgettable experience, and I can say that it will be very useful for me to have an international perspective when I work both internationally in the future and in Japan.

To Kasetsart University

Yohichi FUKUYAMA, 5th year

I spent 6 weeks studying at Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand from Oct. 8 to Nov. 20.

During the first week, we studied fish and shrimp culture. In fish culture, although we learn about fish infectious diseases deeply in Japan, we learn very few things about aquaculture management, such as breeding management and water quality maintenance. Therefore, it was impressive that the lectures and discussions focused on this part. They also emphasized economic efficiency, as fish culture is an industry. We learned each farm required different tests. We also considered what tests were necessary and what we could guess from other tests. I felt that the lectures and practices were designed to help us in this way in the actual field. On the last day, we did a presentation about what we had learned through the lectures and practice, including the significance of water quality tests, testing methods, standard values, and methods of improvement. In addition, due to the mass death of carp at an aquaculture farm near the campus, a practice session was organized to investigate the cause. Water quality tests, necropsy, bacterial cultures, and viral tests were performed to identify the cause of the mass mortality. KU students also made a presentation about this process.

During the second week, we stayed in Nong Pho. There are many farms in the area, and each day we made farm visits in small groups. During the farm visits, we were able to see a lot of cases such as mastitis, ketosis, rumen acidosis, pneumonia, and retained placenta. After the farm visits, we were required to summarize and submit a case report about one of the cases each day. In the process of writing the case report, I was able to connect what I actually saw with the textbook knowledge, which helped me understand more about the disease. When writing case reports, diagnostic evidence and clinical reasoning were important. During farm visits, there were few special devices used for diagnosis, so it was made by interview and physical examination. Therefore, the ability to think was very important. Case reports were checked by a veterinarian. They pointed out test findings that I could not find and other differentials that I should consider, and I realized that there were many things I needed to observe and think about more. The case report was checked by our veterinarian. They pointed out findings of examinations that I could not find and other differential diagnoses that I should have considered. I felt that there were many things I needed to observe and consider more.

During the third week, we learned about equines. It was great to be able to practice here, because there are very few horse practices at Hokkaido University. At a horse lover's club in Bangkok, we learned about lameness diagnosis and nerve blocks tests. At Kamphaeng Saen, I learned about imaging diagnosis and surgical procedures for hoof diseases. The equine surgeon emphasized that it is the veterinarian's responsibility not only to return sick animals to health, but also to keep them healthy. I felt it was important to have a broader perspective, as we tend to be biased toward curing diseases when we are in the hospitals.

It was ruminant practice in week 4 and 5. It was good training for me as I was able to experience many procedures such as physical examinations, ultrasound examinations, blood collection, and injections. I had little experience with large animals, but



Practice of blood collection from sheep

thanks to the professor's clear and detailed explanations, I was able to understand the pathophysiology of diseases. We did a presentation on a case of diarrhea in a calf. I had done a lot of research and preparation, so I was able to answer questions well, and I was very glad that our professor praised the content of the presentation.

In the sixth week, we learned about exotic animals. We learned about medical examinations and procedures on raptors, snakes, parrots, etc., which are rarely handled in our university. I was very grateful for the opportunity to experience many procedures in this Unit as well. It was very interesting to learn about diagnostic imaging for exotic animals.

There were three significant differences between Kasetsart University and Hokkaido University in my opinion.

The first is that there are many animal species practices. At KU, sixth-year students do one-year clinical rotation, and they were required to practice on all animals regardless of their post-graduation plans. I was able to participate in practices with KU students on aquatic animals such as fish and shrimp, exotics such as raptors and rabbits, and horses, which were not part of the curriculum at Hokkaido University.

Second, KU students learn technical terms in English. During my rotation, I received detailed explanations about symptoms and pathophysiology in English from all doctors. Personally, I realized that my vocabulary was not as good as the Thai students and resident doctors, which has motivated me to study more.

Finally, there are frequent presentations. KU students had a lot of opportunities to do a presentation and had excellent ability to communicate and speak. I think these abilities are essential for veterinarians. Also, during the time of the presentation, students are asked some questions so that they can gain further in-depth understanding. I personally felt that I was able to gain deeper knowledge through the preparation of my presentations, and that the questions and discussions during the presentations helped me to realize new perspectives.

Since the duration of this program was longer than other programs, I was able to take many classes and practice, and also interact with Thai students. We were able to talk about many things and had a lot of fun together. I really enjoyed my KU life with many friends.

At the end, I would like to thank Professor Katagiri, Professor Aksorn, and other teachers, IVEP staff, and the staff of Kasetsart University for their efforts in hosting this program. I would also like to thank the students who supported us during our stay. Thank you so much.



Visiting a wat with Thai students

From Kasetsart University

Thongphanchang KHANTHONG, 6th year

My exchange program at Hokkaido University started in January of 2023. I and my other 4 friends from Kasetsart University applied to this program because we thought this would be a great chance to explore the differences between Japanese class and Thai class, learn about the culture and surround ourselves with new learning environment. I remember getting out of Sapporo station excitedly on the day we landed wondering what these next 2 months would be like. But as we all know, time flies very quickly and my time here has come to an end.

Although it was a short time, I did have the best time in Hokkaido and HU. I rotated to many laboratories to learn about their works and topics of interest. I did many lab works that I have never done before in my home university. It was a great opportunity for me to practice my hand skills in lab. I joined laboratory of Wildlife Biology and Medicine and did a mini project about ecology and morphology of sika deer and Steller's sea lion in Hokkaido through a skull specimen and 3D-printing. With all the help and support from senseis and my labmates, my mini project presentation at the end of the program went well. I also had the opportunity to go on fieldtrips. We visited Shadai horse clinic to learn about the management and observe an operation in horse. Then went to Asahi-yama zoo to do semen collection from Amur tiger and we tried to observe the migration of Steller's sea lions in Otaru.

Other than spending weekdays in vet school, I also went for sightseeing in many places on the weekends. My favorite place to visit is Hakodate. I like how deep blue the sea was and the way it contrasted with beautiful bright blue sky. As I said, I wasn't here only for the study, but also for the culture. So I tried many Japanese dishes but my top 3 are sushi, okonomiyaki and, of course, soup curry. Living in a foreign country is not easy especially when you can't speak their language, but my HU friends did teach me some useful Japanese words and helped me with anything throughout my stay. So I am very thankful for all the help they gave and the time we spent together. It really meant a lot to me.

After all, I want to thank Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Kasetsart University and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University for arranging this wonderful exchange program. It was a valuable and unforgettable experience for the participating students from both countries.

And thank you, Hokkaido... you will always, always, have a special place in my heart.



Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, HU (top)/
Sika deer specimen preparation (bottom)



At Lake Shikotsu with HU friends

From Kasetsart University

Kulnida CHAROENRAT, 6th year



Weather in Hokkaido

Since I arrived Hokkaido, I had to adjust myself a lots because that was my first time for seeing snow. On the first day, I was very excited but I also felt cold and the floor was so slippery. In my opinion, I think the second week was the worst weather because it was -10 to -17 so I felt freezing, my hands were hurting and my mouth was shivering. But after that I got used to cold weather. I got many new experiences about the weather there.



Learning in the hospital

I observed many different cases in the hospital those were not the same disease comparing with Thailand but the procedure and protocol were similar. Teachers and doctors in HU were all willing to teach, we are really appreciated. Teachers gave us many chances to go field trips. I was excited that I could go and see new things that were awesome experiences for me such as Elephant nail's trimming, Sperm collection in tiger, Shadai horse clinic and visiting fisherman. Not only small animal and large animal but we also got many chance to perform laboratory. Between 2 months while I learned in HU, I conducted more laboratory than in KU. And I was so interested that HU got many modern equipment. My friend and I got a lot of impressive experience, knowledge and know-how there.

My Japanese friends are really kind and they helped us a lot. We spent time having meal and sightseeing together. They took us to many places and we had incredible times together. And I knew another friend Judai when we went to Shadai horse clinic he is friendly and easy-going. And I met Fumi and Hana in surgery laboratory. Fumi took care me, translated for me and helped me preparing hospital information for my mini-project. Before I came back to Thailand, we hanged out together. I glad that I had many good friends there. I tried to keep chatting with them and wish we could see each other again.

My first meal there was soup curry, I really loved it and I had it for 4 times in 2 months. I like



My first meal in Hokkaido

Okonomiyaki too I had just known that Okonomiyaki can divided into two types one is soft and another one is crispy. I prefer the soft one. I ate many fishes there but my most favorite is sweet shrimp and I also obsessed with crab and kanimiso. And I like wagyu buffet restaurant that Yanagawa sensei took us, the taste was wonderful and soft, the smell was very nice too. Every afternoon meals are always Ojisan bento because I can have many different side dishes. I took a picture with Ojisan for the memory while stayed there. I also had Tonkatsu and other food too. I found many yummy soft

servees and parfaits. If I had a chance I will go back to had all the food that I told you again.

We traveled to many places include Nijo market, Chocolate factory, Bear park, Hell valley, NIXE aquarium, Otaru canal, TV tower, Toyohiraku onsen, Asahi-yama zoo, Shikotsu lake, Maruyama zoo, Sapporo dome, Art museum and Hakodate. We joined snow festival at Susukino and light festival at Otaru canal. Moreover I went onsen first time in my life.



Traveling to national park

From Kasetsart University

Nuttawat LEERAKSAKIAT, 6th year

As a participant in an international veterinary program, I have had the privilege of experiencing not only academic opportunities, but also cultural immersion in Japan. I consider myself lucky to have been selected for this program, which has allowed me to experience new perspectives in both my academic and personal life.

One of the most significant benefits of this program has been the opportunity to learn in a different educational system. The academic experience I have gained in Japan cannot be found in Thailand, where I am from. Through various lectures, hands-on training, necropsy, and, especially laboratory experiment. I have learned about various diseases, the structure of red blood cell walls at the molecular level, and have conducted numerous experiments such as cell passaging, western blotting, PCR, etc. I have also had the chance to work with different animal species and learn about unique procedures such as artificial insemination in chickens, ultrasound detection of pig pregnancy, necropsy of raccoon corpses, semen collection from tigers at the zoo, and, microscopic examination of many animal slides. These experiences have not only enhanced my veterinary knowledge, but also provided me with a new set of skills that maybe I can apply to my future career.

Moreover, this program has offered me the chance to immerse myself in Japanese culture and connect with people from diverse backgrounds. Along with my Japanese colleagues, I have visited significant places such as the Shikotsu National Park, Tanukikoji Shopping Street, the Snow Festival, Hakodate Town, and more. Additionally, we have participated in cultural activities like trying various Japanese foods, including ramen, curry rice, grilled fish, and sushi. I still remember the time when our Japanese friends introduced us to their local cuisine, Kawarasoba, which was unique and delicious. These activities have helped me to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of Japanese culture, and to foster friendships that I hope will continue to thrive long after the program has ended.

Furthermore, this program has provided me with a unique opportunity to learn and practice Japanese language skills. As I interact with my Japanese colleagues and friends, I try to use the language as much as possible. This skill will be valuable to me in the future, both personally and professionally, as I am willing to work in fields that use many languages such as international standard auditing or international trade.

In conclusion, this international veterinary program was very helpful for me, and hope that it will continue to be available for young people in the future. I believe that such programs are crucial for connecting different veterinary communities and fostering cross-cultural understanding, which is essential in a globalized world.



Amur tiger semen collection (left)
Hakodate trip (top right)
Let's sing together (bottom right)

From Kasetsart University

Ratimas PROM-ON, 6th year

IVEP provides me with a great opportunity to gain experiences and learn many new things through this program and not only in the classroom but also via practice. During my eight weeks of education at Hokkaido University, I studied in the infectious diseases laboratory, large animal and wildlife laboratory, and small animal internal medicine and surgery laboratory.

I have experienced many laboratory practices and field trips that never seen before. Most of my laboratory work was in the infectious disease lab, where the theme was infectious diseases in cattle. I had the opportunity to perform a variety of diagnostic methods such as cell culture for viral diseases, parasite identification, and immunoblotting for prion protein detection. I also learned about in vitro reproduction in cattle and worked in an IVF and embryo transfer laboratory. It was a very distinctive experience for me because I tried various lab works that I rarely conducted in Thailand. I also got a chance to study at the Hokkaido University Veterinary Teaching Hospital and did the mini project for my elective laboratory, the surgery lab. I had seen several case approaches, examinations, and surgery operations in the hospital. There were some similarities and differences compared to Kasetsart Veterinary hospital. I learned some new ideas and techniques that I may apply to my field of work in Thailand.

For the field trips, I was able to visit the Maruyama Zoo and observe Asian elephant habitats as well as elephant nail-trimming techniques. It was an astonishing experience to observe such well-cared-for elephants with enclosures and enrichments that differed from those found in Thailand. I also went to Asahiyama Zoo to observe the catheterization technique for collecting semen in the Amur tiger. I was thrilled since I had witnessed the entire process from the moment the staff team blew the dart to anesthetize the tiger to the moment they transported the tiger into another cage to prepare for transportation.

During my time in Japan, the accommodation in Hokkaido was very comfortable, and the transportation was easy to access. I also had some leisure time, and my friends and I traveled a lot. Hokkaido has many attractive spots to visit,



The Amur tiger that had anesthetized and semen collected at Asahiyama zoo

we had been to many places from the mountain to the sea. I loved the views of the snow-covered fields and forests when looking out through the train window, the gorgeous Shikotsu lake, and the breathtaking landscape from the mountains.

Lastly, I am really satisfied and have enjoyed my time at Hokkaido University. I appreciated how kind the HU students and staff were. And if the chance comes, I would absolutely like to visit Hokkaido in the future.



Four of us with HU students and Katagiri sensei at the new Chitose airport