

IVEP

Hokkaido University-Kasetsart University
International Vet Exchange Program 2024
Achieving Global Standards of Excellence in Veterinary Education



Student Report from
School of Veterinary Medicine,
Hokkaido University
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Project Managers
Kasetsart University

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Kasetsart University

Eimi SUZUI, 5th year

The Kasetsart University Exchange Program is one of the longest programs in the IVEP, providing students with a wonderful opportunity to deepen their practical learning in Thailand. As the program celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2024, I would like to express my gratitude and respect for all the efforts and cooperation that have supported this program. I feel fortunate to have been able to participate in this milestone year, and I sincerely hope the program continues to grow in the future.

At Kasetsart University, the course content changes weekly. In the first two weeks, we studied aquatic animals; in the third week, horses; in the fourth and fifth weeks, ruminants; in the sixth week, exotic animals; in the seventh week, swine; and in the eighth week, pathology. I will report on my experiences in the exotic animal and swine classes.

The Exotic Unit has dedicated examination rooms, an elephant treatment facility, and a raptor treatment facility on campus. In the examination room, I observed various cases, including parrots infected with ABV, a cockatoo with a broken wing, a squirrel with overgrown incisors, a turtle that had swallowed a fishing hook, and emergency patients like a mara. Additionally, hospitalized animals included rabbits, tortoises, and exotic animals like tree shrews and civet cats, which are rarely seen outside of zoos, making this experience both interesting and enjoyable. I also had the chance to observe surgeries, particularly one involving a parrot with a burned crop, which was very impressive. The surgery involved carefully removing a small necrotic portion of the crop (about 1 cm) and suturing it, which the attending veterinarian performed with great precision. I was amazed by the high success rate of such surgeries, which reportedly has a near 100% success rate. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to practice handling rabbits, administering injections and blood tests on turtles, and administering oral treatments to snakes. The elephant treatment facility had a very high ceiling and specialized large fixtures and intravenous equipment, creating an overwhelming atmosphere. Fortunately, I was able to assist in treating an elephant with overgrown toenails that caused foot pain, swelling, and inflammation due to neglect in care. Normally, an elephant's nails are naturally worn down through walking, but this particular elephant had been confined in a small room for a long time due to its aggressive nature, which led to a decrease in movement and worsened the condition. Additionally, the elephant's food intake had been reduced to prevent weight gain, leaving it visibly emaciated. The treatment involved trimming the nails and surrounding tissue to relieve the pressure on its feet, followed by disinfection and the administration of anti-inflammatory medication. I realized how elephants have historically been integral to Thai society and how they continue to be indispensable, while also requiring cautious and ethical handling due to their strength and potential danger. As a veterinarian, this experience reinforced the importance of offering better living conditions for wild animals and expanding ethical awareness towards them. The raptor treatment facility focuses on rescuing injured wild raptors and rehabilitating them for reintroduction into the wild. I observed multiple raptors, including those with sight impairments and fractures, being cared for and treated. In handling these birds, we learned the importance of not handling them recklessly due to the sharpness of their beaks and talons. Additionally, I was taught to avoid overstretching their wings during care, as they have a strong instinctual fear of humans. I participated in tasks such as capturing and restraining birds, weighing them, conducting physical examinations, and performing blood tests and injections. These tasks were vital learning experiences that I will never forget. Through this entire class, I gained a deeper understanding of wild animal biology, health management, and their relationship with the natural environment. The opportunity to learn in a way that isn't possible in Japan was an invaluable experience, and I am grateful for it. Moreover, I was impressed by Kasetsart University's commitment to providing such an extraordinary learning environment.

At the Swine Unit, we visited an actual pig farm and observed the farm operations. We discussed issues with farmers and professors and engaged in group discussions to identify problems and propose solutions. This experience helped me understand the importance of biosecurity measures like effective fencing and vaccinations, as well as proper farming environments and feed management to prevent stress and immune suppression. In Japan, we don't have many opportunities to visit farms and debate management strategies, so this was an eye-opening experience. I also participated in post-mortem examinations of pigs, including an African Swine Fever (ASF) case. It was particularly notable that, although we observed textbook symptoms (cyanosis, pinpoint hemorrhages in the kidneys), the typical signs of hemorrhagic infarction in the spleen and swelling of the tonsils were absent. PCR testing confirmed ASF, highlighting the importance of laboratory diagnostics, as pathological findings alone may not always provide a definitive diagnosis. This experience also led me to reconsider the importance of preventing the spread of cross-border infectious diseases like ASF, which has never been reported in Japan. Throughout the program, I gained invaluable experiences that would not have been possible in Japan. I also had many opportunities to interact with Kasetsart University students, making the classes both enjoyable and rewarding.

There were many other aspects of the program, including other courses, daily life, and weekend trips, that I would have liked to share, but due to space constraints, I encourage you to ask me about them. Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the professors, staff, and students at Kasetsart University, the members of Hokkaido University, and the other students participating in this program. Thanks to everyone, I was able to have a fulfilling and wonderful time. I will strive to use the knowledge gained from this experience to contribute to society. I look forward to the day when students from Kasetsart University come to Hokkaido University, and I hope to meet again somewhere in the future. Thank you so much.



elephant

Symposium Commemorating
the 10th Anniversary of
the Student Exchange Program



Minagi HIROSE, 5th year

Reflecting on the two months of my internship at Kasetsart University from September 27 to November 23, 2024, I am filled with unforgettable memories of this wonderful experience.

Every class at Kasetsart University was new and interesting for me. I participated in different units every week, receiving intensive lessons and practical training. Among them, the Ruminant Unit left the deepest impression on me, and I would like to talk about that experience.

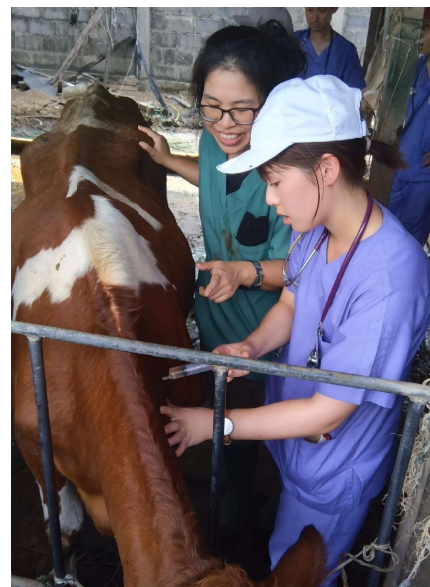
In Japan, when we study ruminants, we mostly focus on cattle, but in Thailand, veterinary students learn not only about cattle but also about goats (mainly raised for milk) and water buffaloes (traditionally used for plowing fields). I was amazed by the size of the water buffaloes that were often brought to the university hospital. At a farm with many goats, we had to catch each goat and check for anemia. At first, I was overwhelmed by the large number of goats, but by the end, we became quite skilled at catching the goats. What stood out most as different from my previous experiences in Japan was the farm visits. While in Japan we also conduct physical examinations and medication practice on actual cattle, in Thailand, students get their own cases and treat them by themselves. The process began with taking a history of the sick animals or the managements from the owner, followed by a physical exam to make a diagnosis. Based on the diagnosis, we decided on the appropriate treatment, dosage, and method of administration, and we carried out the treatments. The next day, we visited the farm again to follow up on the case. This entire process was led by the students, with the teachers providing advice. We had encountered cattle diseases only in textbooks and exams, never in face, it was far more difficult than expected to make a quick diagnosis and choose the correct treatment in such a limited amount of time. There were many times I couldn't answer the teacher's questions about the correct treatment, which made me realize how much I lacked practical knowledge and skills. However, through conversation with the teachers, I was able to gain a deeper understanding about cattle care.

Another deeply memorable experience was witnessing infectious diseases that do not exist in Japan. Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is an endemic infectious disease in Thailand and occurs frequently. Initially, the first week of the Ruminant Unit was supposed to take place at the Nong Pho farm, which is far from the Kamphaeng Saen campus. However, just before we moved, an outbreak of FMD occurred in that area, and we were unable to go. Therefore, we continued our classes in Kamphaeng Saen, but in the second week, an outbreak occurred at the university's demonstration farm. The teacher took us to see the infected cattle at the farm, as none of us had ever seen FMD-infected animals before. The infected cattle were isolated from the healthy ones and exhibited symptoms such as excessive salivation, oral lesions, and swelling around the hooves. In Japan, we learn that FMD is a terrible disease, so I was initially terrified of how severe the symptoms would be. However, the symptoms were milder than I had imagined. In Thailand, FMD-infected cattle are not culled; they are treated with antibiotics to prevent secondary infections, and most of them recover in a few weeks with a good prognosis. In Japan, if even one cow is infected with FMD, all cattle on the farm are subject to culling, and it is difficult to even enter the farm. I was shocked by the differences in the response to and awareness of FMD between Thailand and Japan. In addition to FMD, I also had the opportunity to see infections like Lumpy Skin Disease, Trypanosomiasis, and Anaplasmosis firsthand.

The Thai students were incredibly active and talented. Most of them were able to discuss topics in English, and every Friday, they spend a long time to prepare their presentations, making sure to create clear and well-organized materials. In Japan, there are rarely any voluntary questions from students after presentations, but in Thailand, students frequently asked questions and engaged in lively discussions about each other's presentations. Moreover, they were very kind and welcoming to us international students. In class, if we didn't understand something, they took the time to explain it thoroughly until we understood. After class, they would invite us to join activities like going to eat Mu-kratha (Thai-style BBQ) or attending Muay Thai classes. It was my first experience of becoming so close to people from a culture different from my own.

Every weekend, I spent my time traveling around Thailand. I enjoyed the energetic and vibrant Bangkok, the beautiful sea and turtles of Koh Tao, the spicy and delicious Isaan cuisine, the sunset in Khon Kaen, and the Loy Krathong festival in Sukhothai. Through these travels, I encountered the kindness of Thai people and the charm of Thailand, and I am certain that I will visit Thailand again. Also, I am grateful to my fun classmates who traveled with me.

The beautiful way to the veterinary faculty from our dormitory, the affordable and delicious lunch at the canteen, the lively university market, and the hot everyday with temperatures close to 30 °C have all become treasured memories in my life and a driving force in my motivation. When I think about the outstanding, kind, and cheerful students, the passionate and knowledgeable teachers, and the supportive staff members, I feel inspired to continue making efforts and developing my knowledge and skills more and more as a veterinarian. In the future, I hope to work internationally and someday meet them again. Finally, I would like to deeply thank the teachers and staff at Hokkaido University's for providing me with this valuable opportunity and for all their support, as well as everyone who support my Thai stay.



hands on training at Ruminant unit

the sunset in Khon Kaen



Yunosuke MIZUKI, 5th year

I am appreciating it to write this report to conclude the brilliant stay in Thailand. For the past two months must be one of the greatest periods in my life, I can't afford to make a report of everything I learned and experienced in KU. Then, I will write down two units in my report.

1) Equine unit

The third week was equine unit, which was the most impressive one for me. Although I love horses and have a little experience to ride on them, I was almost fresh to veterinary of horses. In Japan, we have not many chances to learn about and take practical training with horses, even horses should be considered as one of the essential animals for us. I was surprised at the fact that in Thailand, a large number of horses was treated as companion animals like dogs and cats did, and we had some chances to see them while our clinical practice.

On the first day of the unit, we visited the demonstration farm and conduct basic physical examinations and abdominal ultrasonic procedure. Although we had experienced basic physical examinations of horses in OUAVM, the chance was limited since such clinical classes were set on only morning. However, in KU, we treated them one by one with fully support of teachers. I felt confident by this environment and cuteness of horses.

The following day was planned to observe the surgery of two horses; one is ovariohysterectomy of the case with endometritis, and the other is the removal of squamous cell carcinoma. It was first time to observe the surgery, so it was not easy to understand everything conducted in the surgical field. Nevertheless, the surgeon taught us clearly while waiting for the patient to wake up. I was fascinated to help her stand up after waking up from anaesthesia, though all I did was pulling the rope.

On the Thursday, we woke up early and took the van to the horse-riding club. I couldn't wait the day, since this experience must work well even after coming back to Japan. It was my first time to visit foreign horse-riding clubs, so I enjoyed comparing the facility or practice. I thought the facility was well designed even there was some difference from Japanese ones, but the teacher found some risks in the stable. We discussed the risks and gave suggestion to reduce them.

Every Friday was set to make a presentation of what we learned in the whole week. In equine unit, ours was about the two surgeries we saw on the Wednesday. It was our second time to give a presentation in KU, but we still felt nervous by the solid questions and advices from the teachers.



Pathological unit



cycling

2) Pathological unit

The pathological unit was on the last week of our stay. To say the truth, I had little knowledge and experience in pathology, so I was worried about this session. Contrary to my worries, the teachers gave us amazing lecture and practice. In the class of blood parasites, we observe them living in blood with microscope. We saw some parasites (Theileria, Trypanosoma, etc.) not existing in Japan, which was great experience for us. We guess which parasites live in the bovine blood samples and try to conduct PCR on the Thursday on the basis of our prediction. The quiz was not so difficult, but we have some hardness like contamination.

In addition to the class, the teachers in every unit were so kind. In pathological unit, one teacher gave us cups of coffee and some snacks in order to feeling sleepy. We were surprised at how he took care of our health. We finally understood why he was adored by Thai students.

3) Campus life

We enjoyed our stays in Kamphaengsaeng. The campus was so beautiful that we sometimes went cycling and hung around. We went to the night market almost every day, which was fantastic daily routine for me, but two months was not enough to fulfill our greed to try every menu. The cafeteria was also amazing for us. We ate every lunch there and I can't decide which shop was the best. Now I can't wait to enjoy Thai meal, so I wish our university had such cafeteria in the campus.

In addition to its environment, the students were also so kind and friendly that we stayed in the campus with almost no trouble. Sometimes we had lunch together and even they took us outside to have dinner. They are our best friends, so I wish we can keep in touch even after our graduation. Although the number of classes we took together was limited (only one week), we Japanese were surprised at how fluently and confidently they spoke English and gave presentations in English. I envy them by the fact that they have more chances to output their English and improve their skills.

Next time in Japan, we will make the most to entertain them.

During my stay in Thailand, I felt many similarities between Japanese and Thai, and our relationships can be nurtured more. I'm sure Thailand is one of the most essential partners for us. With the experience in the two months, we will raise more brilliant and secure future in veterinary and agricultural fields, with world-wide perspectives.

Again, thank you to everyone who supported us in our stays in Thailand. I will be happy if we meet again in the future.



Equine Unit



Kanchanaburi

Takeru HORIKAWA, 5th year

The HU-KU exchange program provided me with a great opportunity to learn many things in Thailand. All of the units in the program were excellent. In addition to learning in each unit, I had the chance to gain valuable experiences to share every weekend. However, I would like to specifically describe the 10th anniversary symposium and the Aquatic Animal Unit here.

Symposium Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Student Exchange Program under the framework of AIMS program

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the veterinary education collaboration between Japan and Thailand. The collaboration in veterinary education between the two countries began in the 2013 academic year as part of the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) program, implemented by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) (currently known as the Asian International Mobility for Students program). Currently, the project continues as an exchange program between various universities (Kasetsart University, Chulalongkorn University, Rakuno Gakuen University, the University of Tokyo, and Hokkaido University). Over the past 10 years, around 100 students from both Thailand and Japan have participated in the program. Many of them have gone on to make significant contributions in universities, international organizations, and other fields after their participation. It is a great honor for me to have been able to participate in such a program. I hope to apply the knowledge and experience I gained through the program to my future career and strive to contribute to society.

At the 10th Anniversary Symposium, the first session introduced the activities so far and what these efforts have brought to each university. In the second session, presentations were made by students who had graduated after experiencing the exchange program. All of the graduates shared how they had experienced international cooperation activities after their studies, obtained degrees, and later worked in universities or international organizations, applying their expertise in veterinary medicine. They all mentioned that this program had been a turning point in their lives. In the third session, special lectures were held for the program participants and undergraduate students from Kasetsart University, Hokkaido University, and Rakuno Gakuen University. The lectures focused on slightly advanced topics, particularly aimed at students who had participated in clinical rotations.

In the evening, a celebratory party was held. Thai cuisine was served in courses, and a traditional Thai classical dance called "Khon" was performed by children. The children danced carefully and beautifully. The children's performance was wonderful, and when the dance ended, the venue was filled with a long and loud round of applause. The party was luxurious, with everyone enjoying Thai food while watching Thai dance, and everyone had a great time. Additionally, to mark the 10th anniversary, a video reflecting on the past 10 years of the program was shown. All the students featured in the video looked vibrant and were enjoying their practical training. Watching that video, I made a firm resolution to fully commit to this program. I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude to all those who prepared this symposium and to those who have continued the collaboration program over the past 10 years.



Aquatic Animal Unit

In this unit, I studied clinical veterinary medicine and public health related to the fisheries industry in Thailand. I particularly focused on the management of aquaculture, including tilapia and shrimp, clinical diagnostics, and clinical pathology. In Japan, I took courses on fish diseases, specifically focusing on infectious diseases in fish and shrimp, but I had never studied aquatic animal management. Therefore, the lectures on the overview of aquaculture management were extremely interesting. Additionally, I visited farms to observe how they are managed and learned what aspects are monitored. Furthermore, I participated in lab work, including dissection, blood sampling, and water quality testing. It was a so substantial two-week unit. Below, I will describe some of the parameters of aquaculture management and farm visits in more detail.

The most important factor to monitor in aquaculture management is water quality. Factors that affect water quality include water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, ammonia, nitrites, and turbidity. These parameters are interconnected; for example, when water temperature rises, the metabolism of aquatic organisms increases, leading to higher oxygen consumption. Additionally, the solubility of oxygen decreases, causing a reduction in dissolved oxygen levels. As dissolved oxygen decreases, the pH also tends to drop. By organizing these parameters in this way, potential problems can be identified. Thai students gave presentations on these topics, and I was impressed by their presentation and discussion skills. They seemed more accustomed to presenting and engaging in discussions than the veterinary students from Hokkaido University.

Next, I will describe the farm visits. During this training, we visited a shrimp farm and a farm for ornamental fish. The shrimp farm, in particular, was unfamiliar to me in Japan, so everything about it was fascinating. From a veterinary perspective, I paid attention to various aspects and asked several questions during the visit. Many of the things we observed, such as the farm's structure, water supply system, waste management system, and water quality management system, were things I had learned about in the previous week's lectures, and it was valuable to see how they function in practice. The most interesting part of the visit was observing the shrimp toilet. Some shrimp are expelled together. It is possible to infer from the color of the shrimp whether they died during excretion or before the excretion process began. This kind of observation can help identify potential problems on the farm. There were many other fascinating aspects, and I thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

In conclusion, The Aquaculture Unit was one of the most interesting units in this exchange program. Japan imports approximately 10,000 tons of shrimp from Thailand, and Thailand remains a key trading partner for aquatic products. I had wanted to visit aquaculture sites in Thailand, which is important for Japan's seafood industry. Additionally, I had little prior knowledge about aquatic animal management and was eager to learn more. Through this practical training, I was able to learn a great deal and accomplish my goals. Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the instructors who gave lectures during the Aquaculture Unit, and to everyone who taught me so much. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude for all the support I received, both during the unit and beyond.

Prospect of the HU-KU exchange program

Finally, regarding the program in the coming years, I truly believe this program is wonderful. Since it was relatively long-term, there was a lot to learn, and much of the work was hands-on. Having presentations every week was not easy, but it was important because it provided an opportunity to practice summarizing key points of each unit and engaging in group work. It might have been even better if I had been able to take more classes with Thai students (although Thai students have a lot of knowledge and are skilled in discussions, so it is challenging to keep up with them). If there is anything I can do to help further enhance the exchange program in the coming years, I would be happy to assist. I hope the program will continue for the next 10 or 20 years, and I look forward to the 20th anniversary celebration. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved in the program.



Aqua unit

International Vet Exchange Program (IVEP)
Achieving Global Standards of Excellence in Veterinary Education

派遣先大学名	カセサート大学
名前	酒々井エイミー
学年	5 年

カセサート大学派遣プログラムは、IVEP の中でも特に長期のプログラムであり、学生たちがタイでの実践的な学びを深める素晴らしい機会を提供している。2024 年度に 10 周年を迎えたこのプログラムが、多くの人々の努力と協力によって支えられてきたことに、改めて感謝と敬意を表したい。また、この節目の年に参加できたことを幸運に思い、今後さらに発展していくことを願う。カセサート大学では週ごとに授業の内容が入れ替わり、1-2 週目に水生動物、3 週目に馬、4-5 週目に反芻動物、6 週目にエキゾチック、7 週目に豚、8 週目に臨床病理学について学んできた。私はエキゾおよび豚の授業について報告しようと思う。

Exotic Unit は、大学内に専用の診察室、象診療施設、猛禽類診療施設を有している。診察室では ABV に感染したインコ、骨折したキバタン、前歯が伸びすぎたリス、釣り針を飲んでしまったカメ、救急患者のマーラなど多種多様の症例を見学することができた。また、入院患者にはウサギやリクガメのほか、ツバイやジャコウネコなど、動物園でしか見ることのできない動物もあり、非常に興味深く楽しい体験でした。手術も見学する機会もあり、特にそ嚢を火傷したインコの症例は印象的だった。1cm 程度の小さなそ嚢の壊死した部分を取り除き縫い直すという、非常に細かく繊細な手術を見事に行う先生の姿には感銘を受けた。また、このようなそ嚢を縫う手術はよくあるそうで、成功率はほぼ 100%だそう。また、ウサギのハンドリングやカメの注射・採血、ヘビへの経口投与などを体験させていただいた。象診療施設は天井が非常に高く、専用の大型固定具や輸液器具が設置されており、圧倒されるほどの迫力だった。幸運にも象の症例があり治療に携わる機会をいただいた。症例は、爪の過度伸長による足の痛みや腫脹・炎症で、原因は飼育ネグレクトであった。象の爪は適切な頻度で歩くことで自然に削れるため、通常は痛みを感じるほど過度に伸長することは無い。しかし、この症例の象は攻撃的な性格のため飼育者が世話を拒否し、長期間狭い部屋に閉じ込められたことで歩く機会が減り、症状が進行した。また、力をつけさせないために食餌量も減らされており、肩甲骨が明らかなほど痩せていた。そして飼育ネグレクトにより攻撃性がさらに増し、悪循環に陥っていた。治療としては人為的に爪や周囲組織を削り、足にかかる圧力を軽減することで痛みを和らげるとともに、足を消毒し消炎鎮痛剤を投与する方法が取られた。タイは古くから人と象が共生し、国の発展に大きく寄与してきた。現在も象はタイにとって必要不可欠な存在である一方、強大な力ゆえに危険な側面も併せ持っているため、象関わる際には慎重な対応が求められると感じた。また、獣医関係者として、象を含む多くの野生動物に対して倫理的な視点を広め、彼らにとってよりよい環境を提供することの重要性を改めて実感した。猛禽類診療施設は、主に野生で怪我をした猛禽類を保護し野生復帰を目指す施設だ。ここでは、目が見えない個体や骨折した個体など、複数の猛禽類が入院していた。この施設では、個体の体調管理や投薬が毎日行われており、その一連の流れを体験させていただいた。猛禽類を扱う際には、嘴と爪が非常に鋭く危険であるため不用意に触らないこと、羽を広げる際は過度に伸展させないこと、さらに、他の鳥類と比べて野生動物としての人に対する恐怖心が強く残っているため、できるだけ短時間で作業を終

えることが重要だと教わった。また、捕獲・保定、体重測定、身体検査（BCS や羽の枚数確認）、採血、注射の手順を丁寧に教えていただき、非常に貴重で忘れられない経験となった。この授業全体を通して、野生動物の生態や健康管理、そして自然環境との関わりについて改めて考えさせられた。また、日本国内では得られない貴重な体験と、新しい視点を得る機会となったことに感謝している。加えて、カセサート大学が学生にこのような貴重な学びの場を提供していることは非常に魅力的だと感じた。

Swine Unit では実際に豚の農場を訪れ観察し、また、農家や先生方に質問し、農場の問題点を発見して解決策を学生同士で議論する授業に参加した。本議論を通して、家畜感染症の制御には、効果的な防護柵やワクチンなどバイオセキュリティ対策、ストレスによる免疫低下を防ぐための適切な飼育環境や飼料の重要性を、身をもって理解することができた。北大では農場の管理方法に焦点を当てた授業は少なく、実際に訪問し問題点を挙げて議論する場はないため、本授業を通じて新たな視点を得ることができた。また本授業では豚の病理解剖も行い、主にカセサート大学の学生に手順を教わりながら複数の症例を調べた。中でもアフリカ豚熱 (ASF) 症例は特に印象的だった。教科書通りの症状（チアノーゼ、腎の点状出血）を確認できた一方で、典型症状とされる脾臓の出血梗塞や扁桃の腫脹は見られなかった。本症例は PCR 検査によって ASF の確定診断に至ったが、病理所見に典型症状が見られない場合もあることから、PCR 検査の重要性を再認識した。また、ASF は日本で発生したことがないため、越境性感染症の蔓延防止についても改めて深く考える機会となった。全体を通して本授業でも日本では経験できない貴重な学びを得ることができた。また、カセサート大学の学生たちと関わる機会が多く、非常に楽しく充実した授業であった。

他の授業や日々の生活、週末の旅行についても紹介したかったが、余白が足りずこちらに書くことができないため、自分までお気軽に聞きにきてください。

最後にはなりませんが、本プログラムに携わっていただきましたカセサート大学の先生方、スタッフの皆様、学生の皆様、北海道大学関係者の皆様、そして派遣学生の皆様のおかげで、充実した素晴らしい時間を過ごすことができました。本プログラムで得た経験を活かし社会に貢献できるよう精進してまいります。また、カセサート大学の学生の皆様が北大に来られることを非常に楽しみにしております。またどこかで会いましょう、本当にありがとうございました。



2024 IVEP カセサート大学派遣プログラム報告レポート

2024 年 12 月 9 日

36210028 廣瀬海風

2024 年 9 月 27 日から 11 月 23 日のカセサート大学での実習を終え、この 2 カ月間を振り返ると忘れられない素晴らしい思い出でいっぱいである。

カセサート大学での授業は毎日が新しい学びの連続であった。1 週間ごとに異なるユニットに参加し密度の濃い授業と実習を受けた。その中でも私にとって最も印象に残っている Ruminant Unit について詳しく述べたい。まず日本では反芻獣というほとんど牛だけについて学ぶが、タイでは牛以外にも山羊は主に乳目的、そして水牛は田を耕すために伝統的に多く飼育されているためそれらについても学ぶ必要があった。水牛はしばしば大学病院に搬送されてきてその大きさに驚いた。また、たくさんの山羊がいる農場で、すべての山羊について捕獲し貧血のチェックをした。始めは人の数より多い山羊に圧倒されたが全て終わるころには山羊の捕獲も手慣れたものになっていた。日本の実習と大きく違うと感じたのが実際の牛農家への往診のときである。日本でももちろん実際の牛を用いて身体検査や投薬の実習を行うのだが、タイでは実



図 1 往診の様子

もう一つ、日本には存在しない感染症を直接見ることができたことが深く印象に残っている。タイにおいて口蹄疫はエンデミックな感染症としてしばしば発生している。本来、Ruminant Unit の一週目はカンベンセーンキャンパスから離れたノンボー農場で行う予定であった。しかし、我々が参加する直前にその地域で口蹄疫が発生しノンボーに行くことができなくなった。そのため、カンベンセーンで授業を受けていたがさらに 2 週目には大学内の併設農場でアウトブレイクが起こった。そこで先生が口蹄疫感染牛を見たことがない我々を併設農場まで連れていってくれた。感染牛は健康牛からは隔離されており、流涎、口腔内のびらん、蹄周囲の腫脹といった症状を見せて



図 2 流涎の症状を示す口蹄疫感染牛

いた。日本では口蹄疫は恐ろしい感染症として学んだため、どんなに苦しそうなる症状なのかとおびえながら農場に行ったが、その症状は想像していたよりも軽い印象であった。タイでは口蹄疫感染牛は殺処分対象ではなく、二次感染を予防する抗生物質によって治療し数週間で回復し予後はいいのだという。日本で口蹄疫が一頭でも発生した場合、その農場のすべての牛が殺処分対象となる。簡単に農場に立ち入ることもできない。口蹄疫への対応や意識の日本との違いに驚いた。口蹄疫以外にも、ランビースキン病やトリパノソーマ症、アナプラズマ症といった感染症を直接見ることができた。

タイの学生たちは非常に積極的に優秀であった。ほとんどの学生が英語でディスカッションができるレベルであり、毎週金曜日のプレゼンテーションでは前日に夜遅くまで残って準備し



図 3 タイ学生とムーガタを楽しむ

手を抜かずに分かりやすい資料を作っていた。日本であれば発表中に学生同士の質問はほとんど出てこないが、彼らは互いの発表に対して質問と討論を盛んに行っていた。また彼らはとても優しく留学生の私たちを受け入れてくれた。授業では私たちが理解していないとじつくりと理解できるまで説明してくれ、放課後にはムーガタ（タイ式焼肉）を食べに行こうよ、ムエタイ教室に興味ない？と誘ってくれた。日本人以外とここまで仲良くなったのは初めての経験であった。

毎週末には休み時間を惜しんでタイ全土を旅した。忙しくてエネルギーにあふれるバンコク、タオ島の美しい海と亀、辛くておいしいイサーン料理、コーンケーンの夕日、スコータイで流したロイクラトーン。旅を通じてタイ人のやさしさやタイの魅力にたくさん出会うことができた。また必ずタイを訪れたい。ともに楽しく旅行してくれた愉快的同期達には感謝である。

自転車をこいで通学したドミトリーから獣医学部への通学路、山盛りの安くておいしい食堂のランチ、にぎやかな大学内のマーケット、毎日が 30 度近くの常夏の日々は私の人生の宝物となった。カセサート大学で出会った、優秀で優しく元気な学生たち、熱意と豊富な知識そしてやさしさと親しみやすさを持つユニークな先生方、いつも助けていただいた事務の方々を思い出すとこれからさらに知識と技術をつけて獣医師として頑張りたい、そして国際的に活躍してまたいつか会いたい、という気持ちになる。カセサートでの日々は私のモチベーションである。最後にこのようなタイでの学習の機会を作っていただき、サポートしていただいた北大獣医学部の先生方、事務の方々、そして関わってくださったすべての方々に深く感謝いたします。

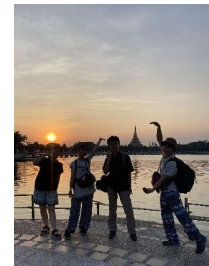


図 4 コーンケーンの夕日

0) はじめに

9 月 27 日から 11 月 23 日までの 58 日間、カセサート大学への IVEP 派遣事業に参加し、現地で数多くの貴重な経験を積ませていただきました。この場を借りて、支えていただいた全ての皆さまに御礼申し上げます。今回の派遣事業では 8 週間、6 つのユニットで実習を行った。私はそのうち、馬と臨床病理について記述させていただく。

1) 馬ユニット

3 週目の馬ユニットでは、振替休日のため 4 日間と非常に短い時間となったが、その中でも充実して研鑽を積むことができた。共同獣医学課程での臨床実習で馬に関わる実習は少なく、そもそも日本では多くの人にとって馬は身近な動物ではない。私は馬が身近な環境で 7 年ほど過ごしていたが、獣医療に携わった経験はほぼなく、異国の地での実習を心待ちにしていた。

動物病院に併設された厩舎における入院馬の状態管理、朝の処置から馬ユニットの一日は始まった。専任の獣医師が処置を行う現場を間近で見学し、聴診や触診も経験した。タイでは主に富裕層で伴侶動物としての馬の所有が増加しており、実習中もそうした馬の来院を多く見かけた。1 日目の午後は学内の実習農場へと移動し、大学所有の馬を用いて実践経験を積んだ。基本的な身体検査や注射に加え、エコー機器を用いた腹部エコーを体験した。身体検査では畜大ボリクリで経験した際と同様、視診や触診、心音および腸蠕動音の聴診などが中心であり、加えて筋肉内注射、頸静脈からの採血、静脈内注射、留置針設置を実施した。

2 日目は手術を 2 件見学した。1 件目は子宮内膜炎の馬について卵巣子宮摘出術を行い、我々学生は手術室 2 階より見学した。通常は畜大ボリクリでも馬の外科手術を見学するが、私が参加した週は手術がなく、本格的な開腹手術はこれが初めてであった。2 件目は喉頭の扁平上皮癌を切除する手術であり、こちらは術野のすぐ近くから見学することが叶った。

3 日目はバンコク近郊の乗馬クラブにおいて、設備の見学と跛行診断を経験した。異国の乗馬クラブを訪れ、獣医師の観点から見学するということは、私が 58 日間の日程で最も心待ちにしていたことのひとつであった。まず馬場へ赴き、砂を観察した。障害練習をする馬場の砂はクッション性の高い砂が使われていた一方、平場での練習を想定した馬場では通常の砂が使われる等、砂一つとっても学ぶことが多かった。その後は 3 棟の厩舎を見学し、気づいた点について先生とディスカッションした。厩舎によっては前年に先生が指導し環境の改善が見られたが、別の棟では危険因子が散見された。日本での経験も踏まえ乾草の給与法に疑問を持ち、先生と議論を深めることができた。確固たる正解はないが、一頭一頭を考えて予防する意義を学べた。跛行診断では見逃すことこそ無かったものの、正常な歩様の馬を破行と誤診してしまった。跛行診断を実地で先生から学んだのはこれが初めてであり、馬における予防医学の基本として大きな学びとなった。帰路には近くのレストランに立ち寄り、タイ風のラーメンやコナツジュースをいただいた。先生方との距離も近く、気軽に質問や雑談さえできるのもタイの魅力であった。

毎週金曜日は各ユニットに関するプレゼンテーションを行う日であり、馬ユニットでは水曜日に見学した手術 2 症例について発表した。先生方からの鋭い質問も受けたが、馬に関する知識に留まらず、発表や質疑応答での技術も試された、実りの多い 1 週間であった。今回お世話になった先生も 2026 年のアジア大会で来日されるといい、馬業界、とりわけ馬術業界は国際的に活躍される方も多いことを改めて実感した。

2) 臨床病理ユニット

最終週は病理ユニットであった。初日の午前には主に講義形式で、血球の分析や血液寄生虫について学び、午後は顕微鏡を用いて血液塗抹標本から寄生虫を観察した。講義形式とはいえ先生との距離も近く少人数であり、

日本での講義よりも集中して聴くことができた。また、この日観察した血液塗抹より予想した寄生虫について木曜日に PCR を行い結果を判定する、というクイズ形式で行われていた点も興味を持ちやすかった。2 日目は鶏に関する講義と病理解剖の見学、3 日目は免疫化学染色、4 日目は初日のサンプルを用いた PCR 検査であった。他のユニットに比べ北大での実習で経験した手技が多かったが、英語で学び直すことでより理解が深まった。また、先生方もたいへん親切で、講義中に眠くならないようにとコーヒーやスナックを用意してくださった先生が特に印象的だった。

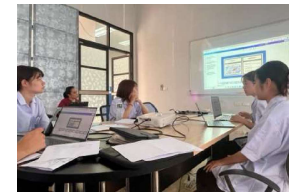
5 日目は病理ユニットで学んだことをまとめてプレゼンを作成したほか、午後には 2 か月間を振り返ってのプレゼンを各個人で行った。4 人各自が個性的な発表を披露した後、須永先生からのありがたいお言葉をいただき、Aksorn 先生より単位と記念品を授与していただいた。同日の昼には現地で仲良くなった同級生らと昼食に行き、プレゼントをいただき別れを惜しんだ。最終日が近づくにつれ、タイ方々の優しさをより実感した 1 週間であった。

3) おわりに

タイでの滞在中は、バンコク、サムイ島、ホアヒン、アユタヤ、イサーン地方、スコートイ、カンチャナブリと毎週末旅行を楽しんだ。普段から国内で旅行することが多い私にとって、この 2 か月は夢のような時間であった。夜行列車が多く残り、地方に向ければ古い客車が当たり前の光景。道路や線路の傍で牛を放牧していたり、駅に着いたらトクトックのおじさんと料金交渉したり、嬉しくないことに野犬に囲まれるようなこともあった。昭和の日本のようにと想いを馳せていても、ひとたびバンコクに出るとその未来都市らしさに驚かされた。タイと日本は共通点が多く、日本にとってタイはアジアにおける最も重要なパートナーの一つに違いない。今回の 2 か月間の経験を活かし、獣医・畜産の観点から、日本、日タイ関係、そして世界の将来を担える人材になりたいと確信した。



①馬への留置針設置



②病理ユニットのプレゼンテーションの様子



③最終発表後に Aksorn 先生、須永先生と

④旅行で訪れたスコートイの夕焼け



2024 年 12 月 11 日

36210031 堀川壮琉

HU-KU 交換留学プログラムは本当に楽しかった。全てのユニットが素晴らしく、多くの事を学んだ。また、週末にも、共有したい経験を多く得た。本報告書では特に交換プログラム 10 周年記念シンポジウムと Aqua ユニットについて述べる。

1. 泰日間の獣医学教育連携プログラムの 10 周年記念シンポジウム

今年は日本とタイの間で獣医学教育連携が始まって 10 年という記念すべき年であった。日本とタイの獣医学教育における連携は 2013 年度に文部科学省が実施した ASEAN International Mobility for Students program (AIMS) プロジェクトの一つとして始まった(現在 AIMS は Asian International Mobility for Students program と称している)。今では各大学の交換留学プログラムになっておりカセサート大学とチュロンコン大学、酪農学園大学、東京大学、北海道大学の獣医学的交流が続いている。この 10 年間でタイ・日本ともに 100 人ほどの学生が参加し、プログラム参加後、大学や国際機関等で様々な活躍をされている。このようなプログラムに参加することができたことは、私にとって非常に名誉なことである。プログラムを通じて得た知識や経験を、今後の進路に活かし、社会に貢献できるよう努力していきたい。

10 周年記念シンポジウムは、3 部構成であった。第 1 部はプログラムが各大学にもたらしたもののについて、第 2 部は交換留学を経験した卒業生のプレゼンテーション、第 3 部では 3 大学(カセサート大学、北海道大学、酪農学園大学)の各先生方による特別授業が行われた。これらの授業は専門性が高く、理解できないところが多かった(特に我が片桐先生の講演内容は特に高度だった)。しかしながら、教員同士は盛り上がりしており、楽しそうだった、学生たちは差し置いて・・・。

夜には記念パーティーが催された。タイ料理がコースでふるまわれた。またタイ文化の一つである「コーン」(Khon) とよばれる古典舞踊が子供たちによって披露された。子どもたちは丁寧にそしてかわらしく踊っていた。タイ料理を食べながらタイ舞踊を鑑賞するという贅沢な時間であり、全員が楽しんだ。子どもたちのパフォーマンスは素晴らしく、踊りが終わった時には大きく長い拍手が会場を満たした。さらに 10 周年記念にちなんで、これまでの 10 年間の振り返るビデオが上映された。ビデオに映るプログラム参加学生の全員が生きており、実習を楽しんでいた。それを見て私はこのプログラムを全力でやり通すことを心に決めた。連携プログラムを 10 年間維持して発展させてきた教員方や学生たちをみて、私もその一員になり、本プログラムをさらに発展させていきたいと思った。10 周年記念シンポジウムは連携プログラムの歴史を感じさせ、さらなる発展を祈念するものとなった。

最後に、本シンポジウムを準備してくださった皆様、そして 10 年間にわたり連携プログラムを続けてこられた皆様に、心より敬意と感謝を申し上げます。



2. Aquatic Animal Unit

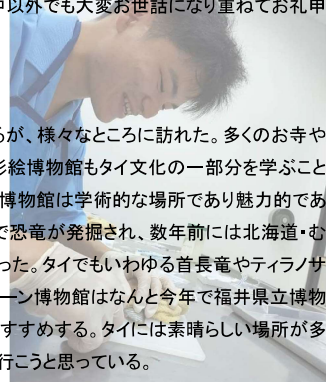
このユニットではタイにおける水産業に関連する臨床獣医学や公衆衛生学を学んだ。特にティラピアやエビなどの養殖管理、臨床診断学、臨床病理学について学習した。日本では魚病学として魚やエビの感染性疾患に関する授業を受けたが水産生物管理については学んだことがなかった。そのため水産管理の概要に関する講義は非常に興味深かった。また、実際にファームに訪れ、どのように管理されているかを見学し、どのようなところをチェックするのかを学んだ。さらに解剖や採血、水質検査などのラボワークも行った。以上から分かるように内容が非常に充実した 2 週間であった。以下に具体的なユニットの内容として水産管理のパラメータの一部やファームビジット、ラボワークに関して記述する。

水産管理で最も重点をおいて確認するのは水質である。水質に影響する因子には水温や溶存酸素、pH、アンモニア、ニトライト、濁度などがある。これらはそれぞれが関わり合っており、例えば水温が上がれば、水生生物の代謝が上がることで酸素消費が増加することに加えて酸素の溶解度が低下するため溶存酸素量は低下する。溶存酸素が低下すると pH も低下していく。このように各パラメータを整理することにより問題点を特定できる。これらについてタイ人学生がプレゼンしていた。その時タイ人学生のプレゼン能力とディスカッション能力の高さに驚いた。彼らは北大獣医学生よりもプレゼンやディスカッションに馴れているように感じた。Canva はプレゼン資料作りにおすすめです。

次に、ファームビジットについて記述する。今回の研修ではエビファームと鑑賞用魚類のファームに訪れた。特にエビファームは日本ではなじみがなかったため、全てが興味深かった。獣医学的観点から様々なことに注意して見学し、いくつかの質問をした。エビファームの構造や水供給システム、排泄物管理システム、水質管理システムなど前週の講義で学んだことが多く見られ、どのように機能しているかを見学できた。その中でもシュリンプトイレの見学が最もおもしろかった。一部のエビは一緒に排出されてしまうが、そのエビの色から排出中に死亡したのか、あるいは排出が始まる前から死亡したのか推測できるらしい。そのような点に注目することで農場の問題点を発見することができるらしい。このように興味深いことが多く、実地研修を楽しんだ。

最後にラボワークについてだが、ラボではネクロブシーや採血、水質検査などを行った。魚やエビのネクロブシーは初めてで、採血は特に難しかった。採血は盲目的な手技であったが、先生にコツを教えてください、なんとか採取することができた。魚の採血のポイントは腹側の体側から背骨の真下を目指して針を刺すことであり、一度背骨に針を当ててからその真下を目指すことで採取しやすいことを習得した。採材した鰓や鰭の検鏡でも外部寄生虫が認められ、勉強になった。ラボワークでの経験は多くが初めてのことであり、刺激のある実習となった。

アクアユニットは今回の派遣留学プログラムの中で最も興味のあったユニットの一つであった。日本はタイからエビを約 1 万トン程度輸入しており、依然としてタイは重要な水産物貿易相手国である。日本にとって重要なタイでの水産物養殖現場を見学したいと思っていた。また、水産物管理についてはほとんど学んだことがなく興味があった。そして今回の実習では多くの事を学べて、目的が達成できた。最後になりますが、アクアユニットで講義していただいた先生方、多くの事を教えていただきありがとうございます。また、ユニット期間中以外でも大変お世話になり重ねてお礼申し上げます。



3. 最後に

週末の旅行と来年以降のプログラムについて記述する。まず週末であるが、様々なところに訪れた。多くのお寺や遺跡など歴史的、文化的な場所はすべてが美しく、行って良かった。また影絵博物館もタイ文化の一部分を学ぶことができるため、おすすめの場所の一つになった。さらに死の博物館や恐竜博物館は学術的な場所であり魅力的であった。恐竜博物館は本当におすすめ、日本でも福井を始め様々なところで恐竜が発掘され、数年前には北海道・むかわでもクリーニング過程を終えた大きな全身骨格が発表されて話題になった。タイでもいわゆる首長竜やティラノサウルス類、ラプトル類など多く見つかっており、王女様の名を冠したシリントーン博物館はなんと今年で福井県立博物館との連携 10 周年。近頃の大きなまち、KhonKaen も素晴らしいから強くおすすめする。タイには素晴らしい場所が多くあり、まだまだ行くべきところは残っているため、機会があれば再びタイに行こうと思っている。

最後に来年以降のプログラムについて、このプログラムは本当に素晴らしいと思う。比較的長期間であるので多くのことが学べ、自分で実施することも多い。プレゼンが毎週あるのは楽なことではないが、ユニットのまとめやグループワークの練習ができるため重要である。もう少し多くタイ学生と授業を受けることができればなお良かったかもしれない(タイ学生は知識が多く、議論もうまいのでついていくのは大変であるが)。

来年以降交流をさらに活発にするために何か役立てることがあればお手伝いさせていただきたいと思っています。次の 10 年、20 年と交換プログラムが続くことを期待し、次の 20 周年記念を楽しみにしています。

プログラムに関わる全ての方々に感謝申し上げます。

IVEP

Hokkaido University-Kasetsart University International Vet Exchange Program 2024 Achieving Global Standards of Excellence in Veterinary Education



Student Report from Kasetsart University January 14th to February 28th 2025

From Kasetsart University

Pongsakorn Hourungroj (Fluke), 6th year

Studying at a prestigious institution like Hokkaido University has broadened my perspective, especially in the field of veterinary research. The laboratories within the faculty are at the forefront of scientific discovery, with research topics that are both innovative and distinct from those I have encountered in Thailand. This experience has allowed me to explore new perspectives and methodologies that will undoubtedly shape my future career.

Among the many impressive courses I attended, the Wildlife Lab was the most memorable. One of the highlights was the field trip to observe Steller's sea lions, the largest sea lion species in the world, which inhabit the coastal waters around Hokkaido. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat and to engage in discussions with conservationists dedicated to protecting them. This experience deepened my understanding of wildlife-human conflict, a global issue that manifests in different ways across regions.

Another remarkable experience was with the Theriology Lab, where I had the chance to visit Asahiyama Zoo. During this visit, I observed both the clinical and exhibition aspects of zoo management. As someone passionate about nature and conservation, being able to witness the work of zoo veterinarians and personally interact with a spotted seal was truly extraordinary. Seeing firsthand how wildlife medicine is practiced in a zoo setting reinforced my interest in veterinary conservation and inspired me to explore similar fields in the future.

Beyond academics, I took every opportunity to explore different parts of Hokkaido, creating unforgettable memories along the way. As an avid birdwatcher, I focused on visiting natural areas such as Kushiro, where I had the privilege of observing the Red-crowned Crane (Tancho). The conservation efforts in Japan have been remarkably successful, and seeing hundreds of cranes foraging in the fields of Tsurui Village was a perfect example of how conservation can benefit both wildlife and local communities. It was inspiring to witness a harmonious balance where nature, landowners, and eco-tourism coexist successfully.

One of the most unexpected yet exciting experiences came from a three-day trip with Minagisan and her high school friends. Thanks to their invitation, I was able to experience unique activities, such as riding an icebreaker ship while watching a breathtaking sunset over the frozen sea. Along the way, I encountered some of the world's most impressive birds, including the Steller's sea eagle (Owashi), the heaviest eagle species, and the Spectacled guillemot (Keimafuri), a seabird not found in my home country.

On the final day of our journey, we visited Kiritappu Cape, where I had the incredible chance to observe sea otters (Rakko) floating in the water, effortlessly cracking open shellfish as they drifted in the waves. The scenery was so stunning that it left me longing to return to Hokkaido in another season to experience its beauty from a different perspective.

This unforgettable seven-week journey would not have been possible without the kindness and support of Japanese students, professors, and program staff. Their hospitality made my stay in Hokkaido truly exceptional. I am deeply grateful for the experiences, friendships, and knowledge I have gained, all of which will undoubtedly influence my future as a veterinarian and conservationist.



Kasetsart University

From Kasetsart University

Parisuth Nualnok (Pakkard), 6th year

Studying at Hokkaido University (HU) has been an enriching experience, allowing me to gain valuable academic knowledge, explore cultural differences, and engage in new activities.

One of the most significant academic experiences I have gained at HU is working on a project involving CT scanning of polar bear and brown bear skulls for 3D printing. Additionally, I studied their anatomical differences, deepening my understanding of wildlife morphology. This exchange also introduced me to research processes, pathways for pursuing a PhD, and the latest advancements in veterinary medicine.

When comparing HU and KU, both universities offer practical learning experiences, but there are key differences. At HU, I worked in a veterinary hospital and learned different approaches to medication use. Infectious diseases are less common in Japan, whereas immune-mediated diseases are more prevalent. In contrast, infectious diseases remain a major concern in Thailand. This experience broadened my perspective on disease patterns and treatment approaches in different regions.



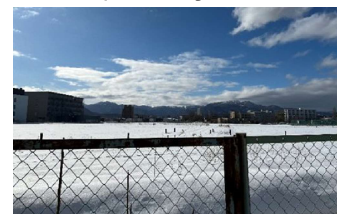
To further improve the exchange program, increasing field trips to explore various aspects of veterinary medicine beyond the university would be beneficial. Additionally, greater involvement for Thai students in the veterinary hospital would enhance their clinical experience and hands-on practice. Beyond academics, my time at HU has been filled with cultural and outdoor experiences. I visited Moerenuma Park for sledding, Jozankei for a foot bath, and attended the Snow Festival. In Otaru, I saw sea lions and finally got to see my favorite aquatic animal, a lumpfish, at Otaru Aquarium. I also explored Lake Toya, Noboribetsu Bear Park, and Hell Valley, each offering stunning landscapes. Additionally, I visited Maruyama Zoo and Hokkaido Shrine. At Asahiyama Zoo, I had the rare opportunity to touch a seal and learn about venipuncture sites for blood collection.

One of the most challenging but memorable experiences was skiing at Bankei. It was my first time, and balancing was difficult. By the end of the day, my legs were extremely sore, but it was a great experience. Lastly, I had the chance to join Milk and Cheese fair where had various Hokkaido dairy products such as milk, soft serve, cheese and desserts. I tried a lot of local Japanese food including soup curry, jingisukan, sushi, yakiniku and pork bowl. Overall, my exchange at HU has been extremely valuable. I have gained new academic knowledge, explored cultural differences, and engaged in unique experiences that broadened my perspective.

From Kasetsart University

Nathapatch Sanpamongkolchai (Tonkla), 6th year

My first experience in Hokkaido was quite different from what I imagined. Walking in snowy and slippery ground was very hard, even though I had prepared with proper shoes. Another difference was the shorter daylight hours, making it dark by 4 or 5 PM. After a week, everything was fine, and I was able to adapt. Despite these initial challenges, my exchange program in Hokkaido has been incredibly rewarding.



The academic knowledge I've gained, especially in toxicology, is invaluable. There are a lot of high technology instruments like the HPLC-MS/MS and ICP-MS, which I had only read about in articles. I saw and tried these instruments that have significantly enhanced my knowledge. I would like to thank Colin-san, all the professors, and everyone in the toxicology lab for their warm welcome and for sharing their invaluable knowledge. Additionally, I practiced many techniques like cell culture and Western blot, which I'd only learned from lectures before. The lab's research topics were quite different from those in Thailand, focusing on gene expression and utilizing advanced technology. This opened my eyes to new ideas for my further studies. Additionally, during my clinical rotation, I observed the unique approach of Japanese veterinarians, which, combined with Thai practices, can help me become a better veterinarian.

The cities I frequently visited were Sapporo, Odori and Susukino, which are vibrant but less crowded compared to Tokyo or Osaka. These cities have everything from shopping to delicious food, making them feel warm and inviting. I also visited Otaru, zoos, aquarium, Noboribetsu, and had the chance to attend the Snow Festival, where I saw amazing Pokémon sculptures like Pikachu, Regigigas, Kyukon, and Hogator, which was truly impressive for a Pokémon fan like me. Additionally, I had the chance to try Hokkaido's signature dish, soup curry, which reminded me of Thai soups and helped cure my homesickness. I also enjoyed Japanese food like katsudon, which my friends recommended from Seicomart. It was delicious, and I also tried other food like ramen and sushi. About trips my Japanese friends took great care of me. They organized trips to various places like Noboribetsu and invited me to dinner, where I tried Jingisukan for the first time and enjoyed Shabu Shabu that had a softer taste compared to what I've had in Thailand.

The most important factor that made this exchange program perfect was the support from everyone. I want to thank my friends: Mina, Takeru, Ami, Yuno, Moe, Marina, Shiori, Ayano, Rin, To and Yuko, as well as all my friends in Hokkaido. I'm also grateful to my Thai seniors, Mon, Jib, Noon, and everyone who provided invaluable support and guidance. A special thanks to Mike-sensei and Ericasan for coordinating activities and works. Lastly, I want to thank all the professors and staff, both from Kasetsart and Hokkaido, for making this program possible. Thank you all once again.



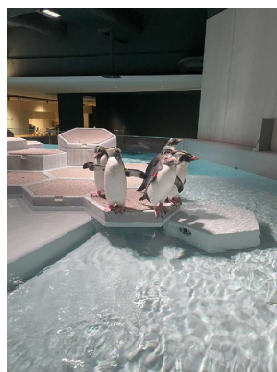
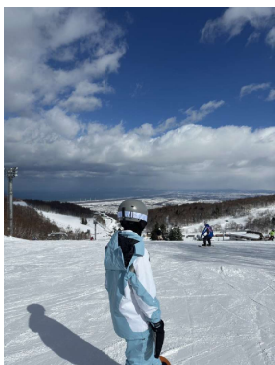
From Kasetsart University

Sarichaya Tongdeelert (Auey), 6th year

Before I came to Hokkaido, I thought that two months would feel like a long time, but once I got here, time just flew by. I've learned so much during my stay, and it's been really impressive. Most of what I've learned happened in the classroom, where we had the chance to visit different laboratories. It was fascinating to see the kind of research they're doing, and sometimes we even got to try experiments ourselves. Since it was our first time doing some of these experiments, we made a few mistakes, and the results were often confusing, but overall, it was a great learning experience.

Aside from studying, we spent a lot of time exploring food and desserts. Our Japanese friends were kind enough to recommend and take us to some amazing places to eat. We tried Jingisukan, soup curry, and shabu-shabu, and we also discovered some great spots near our dormitory. Sometimes, when classes ended early, we'd go for a sweet treat, like crepes or soft-serve ice cream. Even though the weather was freezing, we couldn't resist the milk soft-serve, and we enjoyed it despite sometimes shivering afterward! The fruits here were also fantastic, especially the strawberries and tangerines, which were sweet and juicy. Out of all the places we tried, one of the most memorable meals was at Toriton. We waited for two hours, but it was totally worth it because the food was fresh and delicious! We also visited several attractions, including a zoo and an aquarium. All the places we visited were fun, but my favorite was the AOA Aquarium. I didn't expect much at first since it's in the building, but it turned out to be really cool. The layout was great, and they even had penguins. The funny part is that I won a first-prize penguin plushie in a lucky draw, which was a little penguin. However, the one I got was three times bigger than the actual penguins and packing that plushie to take home turned out to be quite a challenge! Another highlight was snowboarding. I had never done it before, so it was a bit tricky at first. But once I got the hang of it, it became really fun. The next day, I was sore all over. Despite the pain, I would definitely do it again!

Overall, my two months in Hokkaido have been full of fun, excitement, and new experiences. I've learned a lot, enjoyed amazing food, and met really nice people along the way.



From Kasetsart University

Wattida Sathantip (Cookie), 6th year

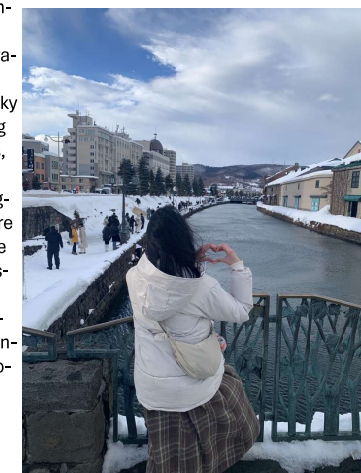
Over the past two months, I have had many wonderful experiences. This was my first time traveling abroad, and I finally visited Japan that is a country I had always dreamed of. I participated in the KU-JU exchange program in collaboration with Hokkaido University. During the first week of 2025, I attended online lectures with professors from Hokkaido University and Rakuno Gakuen University before traveling to Japan on January 11, 2025. The moment I stepped out of the airport, I witnessed snowfall for the first time. The weather in Sapporo was extremely cold completely different from Thailand which required some adjustment for Thai peoples like us. However, the breathtaking scenery made it all worthwhile. Everywhere I looked the city appeared clean, well-organized and aesthetically pleasing. The air was also fresh making my time here incredibly enjoyable.

Upon arriving in Sapporo, I began my studies at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University where I would be studying for a total of eight weeks.

During the first week, we were assigned to different labs based on our preferences. I chose the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases where I assisted in analyzing Bovine Leukemia Virus from bovine blood samples using ELISA and qPCR techniques. I was delighted to be part of this lab as everyone welcomed me warmly and guided me through the work with great dedication. For the next five weeks, we rotated through different labs within the faculty. And in the last two weeks, we attended classes at the Animal Hospital. Each day's activities varied depending on the subject. For example, in the Lab of Theriogenology, we studied Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) where we learned to pack embryos, perform embryo transfers into the cattle uterus, and later conduct embryo recovery to assess the results. Additionally, our professor took us on a field trip to Asahiyama Zoo where we observed various animals including seals and penguins which were the zoo's highlights. Furthermore, we had the opportunity to work in the faculty's animal housing facility where we administered vaccines and performed ultrasounds to check for pregnancy in pigs. We also conducted rectal palpation on dairy cows too.

Most other lab sessions consisted of lectures focusing on each lab's primary research topics. As for our clinical rotation at the Animal Hospital, we rotated through various units such as Medicine, Surgery, and Anesthesia, we observing and assisting with cases based on our interests or assigned duties for the day.

Beyond our daily studies we had the chance to visit many fascinating places across Hokkaido. One of the highlights was Moerenuma Park, a former landfill site transformed into a park featuring a glass pyramid museum. Outside, there was a large snow-covered hill where we enjoyed sledding which was incredibly fun. We also visited Maruyama Zoo which housed a diverse range of animals comparable to those at Asahiyama Zoo. Another memorable place was Hokkaido Shrine, the most revered shrine in Sapporo which I visited twice to pray and purchase lucky charms. Additionally, we explored Shiroi Koibito Theme Park, a charming chocolate factory and Otaru Aquarium, home to various marine species, a penguin parade and a dolphin show all set against a beautiful landscape. Nearby, we admired Otaru Canal, a romantic and popular photography spot for tourists. Another unforgettable trip was to Lake Toya where the stunning blue lake contrasted beautifully with the bright blue sky. We also visited Noboribetsu Bear Park that located on a mountaintop accessible by ropeway where we observed bears and even had the chance to feed them and Jigokudani Valley, we marveled at hot springs and breathtaking mountainous landscapes. Within Sapporo, we explored many iconic attractions and shopping districts, including Sapporo TV Tower, Sapporo Clock Tower, Odori Park, and Susukino Station.



However, my most cherished experience in Hokkaido was the trip to Jozankei Village, a small onsen town nestled in the mountains. I visited Jozankei Shrine, walked across Futami Bridge a striking red suspension bridge offering scenic river views and enjoyed a foot onsen in a public park. Soaking my feet in the warm onsen while surrounded by snowy landscapes was incredibly relaxing. Since I was in an onsen town I couldn't miss the opportunity to try a traditional hot spring bath. I visited Hoheikyo Onsen, one of the most famous in the area and experienced my first-ever full-body onsen bath. It was an incredibly soothing experience, allowing me to truly immerse myself in Japanese culture.

Another memorable experience in Japan for me was the food. I got to try many new dishes and found almost everything is delicious. Some of the most famous dishes in Hokkaido that I tried included butter corn miso ramen, soup curry, and Genghis Khan. It was my first time eating grilled lamb and I was surprised that it had almost no strong smell. Other dishes I enjoyed included Udon, Hamburg steak and Butadon. I think the rich flavors of Japanese cuisine combined with the soft and slightly chewy texture of Japanese rice made every meal incredibly satisfying. Aside from savory dishes, desserts were also a highlight. Since Hokkaido is known for its high-quality dairy products which are rich, creamy, and aroma. So the sweets here were exceptionally delicious. I especially loved Hokkaido soft cream for its sweet, milky and rich flavor. I also really enjoyed Hokkaido fresh milk. While staying here, I drank milk almost every day and had the chance to try different brands.

Being in Hokkaido allowed me to learn about Japanese culture through people, language, architecture and surroundings. I had the opportunity to participate in a Setsubun party, a traditional event marking the transition from winter to spring. We made our own sushi rolls and ate them while making a wish in a special direction and also took part in throwing beans at oni to drive away bad luck. I also joined the welcome party of my laboratory where I got to experience the Japanese way of hosting gatherings. Another memorable experience was trying on a kimono and walking around Sapporo. Wearing it involved many steps and was quite complicated but every detail was carefully arranged, making the final look incredibly elegant. Before returning to Thailand, I joined a ski trip with PhD students at Bankei which was my first time skiing. I started from the basics, learning how to put on ski boots, balance, and stop. I even tried skiing down a slope. Although skiing was physically exhausting but it was a lot of fun. If I get the chance, I would love to go skiing again.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the KU-JU Exchange Program possible including Hokkaido University, Kasetsart University and the supporting organizations such as IVEP and JASSO. Having the opportunity to participate in this program has given me wonderful friendships with both Thai and Japanese friends, invaluable experiences and knowledge that I could not have gained elsewhere and beautiful memories that I will cherish for a lifetime.

