

WikiVet is a non-profit making collaborative resources which aims to support and enhance veterinary education worldwide using web based technologies. It provides an innovative and dynamic framework integrating an expanding veterinary encyclopaedia with related learning materials. WikiVet aims to become the most respected and largest online educational resource for the international veterinary community.

Our principle objectives are:

- To provide a comprehensive knowledge base covering all aspects of veterinary science for all domestic species;
- To address the entire veterinary and related curriculum in order to provide a reliable and trusted resource for students anywhere in the world;
- To use the new opportunities offered by e-learning to support professional lifelong learning;
- To foster a new community of veterinary educators, learners and practitioners using social media with a common interest in veterinary education;
- To create a sustainable model which ensures the longterm viability and growth of the site.

CURRENT STATUS

WikiVet was established in 2007 to provide online access to a comprehensive veterinary curriculum. The consortium was initially formed by three UK veterinary schools (RVC, Edinburgh and Cambridge) and was subsequently joined by Nottingham. It has now grown to include over 10 additional associated academic institutions as well as forming a close association with parts of the commercial veterinary sector. WikiVet now has a registered user base of over 35,000 members of whom about 60% are veterinary students from over 90 countries around the world.



Figure 1 WikiVet Founding Members at RVC 2007

At present, the WikiVet site provides an extensive knowledge base supported by interactive learning materials. This pedagogical mix of online resources has been developed based on feedback from veterinary educators and focus groups of learners. This mix has evolved with time from a multi-user generated wiki to a more complex learning package integrating curriculum resources with supplementary text and references provided by an employed team of authors. The site now has one of the largest veterinary collection of educational resources on the web.

WikiVet continues to and now offers registered users free access to:

- Over 5,000 assets comprising text, diagrams and images covering topics relevant to veterinary basic sciences, clinical medicine, veterinary nursing and the general public (ongoing)
- A sophisticated category system to provide rapid browsing by system, species or discipline
- Over 400 Flashcards with links to WikiVet pages and commercial textbooks
- A database of over 300 Multiple choice questions and feedback authored by subject experts
- A comprehensive set of drag and drop exercises on a wide range of topics
- A Facebook site and linked Twitter feed with regular updates and links to the site
- An iTunes site with podcast feeds in English, French and Spanish
- Spanish and French sub sites with a subset of translated content
- A video database including over 200 veterinary videos to enhance site content
- Links to key references and full text articles through the CABI database

The number of users of the site has grown significantly since its launch as the content has improved and developed to cover more topics. In addition there has been increasing interest from academic institutions, veterinary organisations and the commercial sector. Figure 2 shows the growth in international registrations to the site.

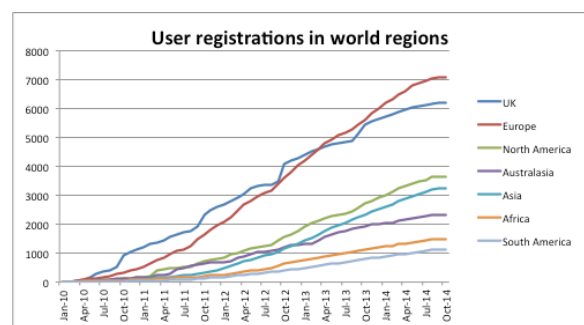


Figure 2 WikiVet Global Registration

A proportion of the site was made open for public access in 2010 and as a result this content has been widely indexed by Google and the number of visits has steadily grown to over 1 million individual visits in the last year alone.

WikiVet has been dependent on the generosity of a large number of organisations committed to supporting veterinary education. These include the Higher Education Academy, RCVS Trust, Pfizer Global Alliances, Ceva, Mars Ltd and the Donkey Sanctuary who have all provided funding. Other organisations which have assisted with providing content and support including Elsevier, Mansons Publishing, CABI, IVIS and VetPrep. In addition colleagues and students at all the collaborating veterinary schools have been fundamental to the projects success. Finally the site has been dependent on the good will and time of numerous volunteer students and academics around the world.

CONTACTS

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