

2026-2027
Christian Veterinary
Fellowship
Faculty Advisor &
Student Ministry Advocate Manual
(Revised 7/17/2026)



“This is why I remind you to keep using the gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. Now let it grow, as a small flame grows into a fire. God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NCV)

Table of Contents

<u>Introduction</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Roles and Expectations</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Suggested Activities of a Faculty Advisor</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Tips for Making your CVF a Success</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Suggested Organization</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Bible Studies</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Prayer</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Ministry to Others</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Outreach</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Speakers</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Fundraisers</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Missions</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Social Activities</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>CVM Related Activities</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>About Christian Veterinarian Mission (CVM)</u>	<u>15</u>

Introduction

*Student Ministry Advocate (SMA) is a veterinary practitioner living in the area of a CVF group who is purposed to support the group, but is not the formal Faculty Advisor, although some are on faculty.

The role of faculty members and local practitioners as advisers to students and student groups continues to change over the years. In years past, universities characteristically required all recognized student groups to identify and “work with” a Faculty Advisor (FA). Although some universities still require student groups to function with a Faculty Advisor, the trend points to fewer requiring a Faculty Advisor for a student group to organize and function. On campuses where the formal role of Faculty Advisor is still required, often, only a signature is necessary with little expectation of faculty investment in the organization and health of the student group. Sometimes, a Faculty Advisor often struggles to find any real purpose to the role. Time pressures, a lack of understanding of the role, student expectations (or lack thereof), and many other reasons contribute to the difficulty in the role of advising student groups on campus.

We’re addressing this issue because we believe that all CVF student chapters should seek out an active FA or SMA, even if the university does not require one, to develop a team approach to campus ministry for the sake of the Gospel and the vitality of the CVF group.

Roles and Expectations

We want to address the question of roles and expectations by offering a vision for the ministry and mission of a CVF FA or SMA on campus. We feel there are three very basic, yet significant, contributions of an adviser with CVF student groups:

1. Perspective and Continuity: Faculty often has a wider and longer-term outlook of the challenges and opportunities on campus. They can keep CVF students and leadership from heading in wrong directions because of a lack of adequate background knowledge and experience on campus. Discipleship, mentoring and prayer all play a huge role in helping student leadership make better decisions.
2. Understanding about how things work at the university: Navigating bureaucracies can be difficult and may even result in complete dead-ends. Faculty can help CVF leadership make the best, most strategic moves and even cut through some red tape.
3. An ally in times of conflict and controversy: A sympathetic faculty member can head off trouble before it becomes a political football on campus. To be effective in times of conflict and crisis, students need to have developed a relationship with faculty *before* the conflict and crisis flares up.

So, perspective, understanding and wisdom are critical to the role of FA or SMA of a CVF student group. But there are even more ways that they can and should contribute to the mission of CVF on campus:

1. Endorsement and Affirmation: Beyond being a supporter, CVF student groups need to be endorsed and affirmed by faculty. This is vital to the ministry of CVF. The atmosphere in

academic environments can be hostile to Biblical and traditional convictions. When faculty members affirm and endorse with their investment in CVF, it brings an important blessing on the ministry but also on each student who can often feel isolated and marginalized because of their faith.

2. Encouragement and Mentoring: Students often desire and seek out advice and counsel from more experienced people. A wise FA or SMA can extend his or her ministry throughout generations by discipling and mentoring students on how to live faithfully for Jesus Christ personally, on campus, and in the professional world of veterinary medicine.
3. Hospitality: In today's world most students yearn to be around a loving Christian family. The ministry of hospitality could be one of the most important impact points in the faculty/student relationship. The FA or SMA's home may be a first for students – Christian, kind, open, welcoming, built upon the foundation of God's Word. There is no way to overestimate the impact of this ministry on their life.
4. A resource for living as Christian: There is a lot that Faculty can offer to students, but few things matter as much as the personal investment of a Christ-centered relationship and Christian mentoring. This influences students throughout their life and work. Faculty mentoring in regular meetings, small groups, prayer meetings, short-term mission trips and other activities deepen and extend your ministry in ways that will build a personal legacy of discipleship.
5. The relationship between faith and academic life: Not everyone is comfortable speaking to groups, but almost everyone has thought deeply about the relationship between their faith and their academic life. Christian faith and the life of the mind are not incompatible. Thoughtful conversations can help students reconcile conflicts, concerns, life choices, and career paths with their faith journey.

The impact of an engaged FA or SMA is important and undeniable. But it's possible that even as you read this several questions come to your mind:

- 1) "I already have a full time job! How could I find the time to contribute in this way?"
- 2) "I'm not a minister; my training is in academia! How can you expect me to perform these kinds of roles in a student's life?"
- 3) "Sure, my investment may be great for a student group, but how is this good for me as a faculty member?"

These are appropriate questions for Christian faculty to raise and a response requires clear thinking about theological and spiritual realities while creatively re-thinking the role of a FA or SMA to fit the current campus environment as well as a realistic assessment of the faculty member's professional and personal life. Sometimes, the most faithful response is to decline the invitation to serve in order to prioritize where the Lord is calling you to serve. But there are times when the Lord calls us outside our comfort zones to grow and stretch us to serve Him in grace and faith. So, as you read this guide, prayerfully allow the Holy Spirit to take you outside of your comfort zone to seek His will fully. It could be, no matter the obstacles you face in professional and personal life, that the absolute best thing for you to do is to invest yourself in the CVF student group in some capacity or in a greater capacity than you now serve.

There are at least three ways to address the first question:

- 1) Yes, time management is always an issue – there are only so many hours in a day! But the most simple - yet significant - items on the list are “endorse, affirm, and encourage” the student group. In Scripture, one of the greatest impacts on the early Church was through the encouragement, affirmation and endorsement of Barnabas to the ministry. You may think this is a simple issue. But it is powerful - to publicly endorse the mission of a Christian student group. Think of those in your life who, over the years, stood with you in difficult times – their presence and encouragement may have made the difference in your journey! In the same way, you can be a blessing to CVF as a whole and to students individually.
- 2) No, we don’t expect you to be a pastor or to become a CVM staff member. But we do believe – as a follower of Jesus Christ – that you have been gifted to serve. Scripture tells us that each of us have different gifts that build up the body of Christ. Being who God created you to be is enough! Prayerfully think through your interests and gifting, ask the Lord to show you how they fit the mission and ministry of a CVF student group. Look at the student leadership and prayerfully discern where your gifting, abilities and skills could support the leadership in areas where there is a need, encourage and support where there is strength.
 - a) Freely communicate your interests and the limits to your availability to the leadership of the student group.
 - b) Prayerfully look at the wider circle of interested Christian faculty or even spiritually mature veterinarians in the local community who can participate with you. These connections will lessen the burden and bring more resources into the ministry of CVF.
- 3) There is a great blessing to being a Faculty Advisor or Student Ministry Advocate, to be sure. You will receive great joy and satisfaction in this role. However, it’s important to remember . . . it’s not all about you. Our life is to be lived for Him, for His greater glory. Too often, in today’s culture, we are impacted by the “what’s in it for me” philosophy of life. God has placed each of us in a place of influence to extend the Gospel to all people. And the unique contribution we can make in younger lives will echo through eternity.

Suggested Activities

Faculty Advisors and Student Ministry Advocates are essential to the success of CVF groups. They must do their best to attend meetings, assist with service projects, provide guidance to the group’s leadership, and liaise between the school administration, student group and local practitioners.

Meetings

- Help student leadership with arranging meeting dates and times as requested but allow student leadership to be responsible for and carry out meetings. A FA or SMA who attends regularly makes a huge difference to the vitality of CVF.
- Assist with yearly elections of leaders and help with orderly transition in leadership.

FAs and SMAs can also help guide the students in choosing officers who will represent and direct the group well.

- Help student leadership with guest speaker arrangements of practitioners in the area or statewide. CVM has a database of speakers available for your CVF meetings.

Ongoing Support

- Encourage student leadership to maintain an accurate database. A critical need is to help CVM maintain relationship with graduates by having their correct personal information. Coming up with a way to gather and send that information to CVM before they graduate is important and helpful.

Tips for Making Your Christian Veterinary Fellowship a Success

The success of a CVF student group depends greatly on the strength and participation of its advisors. Experienced advisors have shared the following tips:

- Dedicate yourself to your role. A consistent Faculty Advisor is important to a club's success.
- Maintain a positive and enthusiastic attitude.
- Encourage students to connect with CVM through interactions with their Regional Representative or attending a CVM event. In addition, encourage students to connect with local and state practitioners.
- Be aware of other clubs in the school and churches in the community, and maintain positive, cooperative relationships with them.
- Allow student leaders to fail since it can be a good learning experience but step in when it's appropriate or your expertise is needed. Motivate by praising successes, and encourage optimism when activities fail.
- Encourage student leaders to resolve disagreements on their own but arbitrate when necessary.
- Realize that student activities change throughout the year (and year to year) and emphasize the importance of consistent attendance.
- Encourage students to participate in the following:
 1. Real Life Real Impact Weekends
 2. Short-term Mission Trips
 3. Externships
 4. Mission Scholars program and/or International Apprenticeships
 5. Prayerfully consider Long Term Mission commitment
 6. Connecting with CVM resources:
 - a. Professional Conference Prayer Breakfast and meetings
 - b. CVM Conference
 - c. Job Board
 - d. Hospitality Board
 - e. Two Roads Crossing Podcast

(Each year, CVM sends this section to CVF student leaders as the Student Manual, plus a sample CVF Constitution.)

Suggested Organization

President:

- Supervise and coordinate events and meetings for CVF
- Set vision and leadership for CVF
- Coordinate functions & activities of CVF among officers and general membership
- Plan regular officer/leadership meetings
- Communicate general CVF updates to faculty advisor and to vet school at large
- Coordinate mission trips through CVM, or designate another officer or member to fulfill the role as the CVF Missions Coordinator
- We recommend that you set a Constitution and Bi-Laws as part of your CVF group. CVM has samples upon request.
- Act as the main point person between your CVF and your area CVM Region Rep

Vice-president:

- Aid the president in planning and maintaining CVF activities throughout the year
- Assist in planning Bible study and prayer groups for the year and coordinating Bible study and prayer group leaders

Secretary:

- Maintain and update contact information for all participants
 - Send updated contact list to CVM Region Rep at the beginning of the school year
 - Send graduate contact list to CVM Region Rep before leaving school at the end of the year
- Maintain and update the CVF website and/or Facebook Page
- Take notes at meetings
- Reserve rooms and maintain correspondence with public as needed

Treasurer:

- Custodian of the financial resources of the organization and maintain the CVF bank account
 - Collect any monies received in accountable fashion
 - Pay bills as necessary
- Oversee other monetary transactions including fundraising and social activities
- Keep officers informed of CVF's financial status at least once a semester
- Arrange fundraising opportunities for the organization as needed.

Other Officer Options:

- Some schools have such positions as Historians, Missions Chair, Social Media/PR Chair, and Social Organizer as well. Two other roles we recommend considering are a Delegate for each class/year, and Real Life Real Impact Coordinator (especially if your group will be hosting RLRI this school year.)

NOTE: Remember, these are just guidelines, add officers or consolidate roles as you see fit.

Bible Studies

Study of God's Word is critical to every believer's spiritual growth! *"Your words have supported those who stumbled; you have strengthened faltering knees"* (Job 4:4, NIV). No one has grown deeper in their walk with God without a scriptural foundation. Having weekly Bible studies is a good way to foster growth and fellowship. It is also a good chance for outreach to the rest of the veterinary school. Encourage CVF members to invite their classmates and be open to seekers. Keep the atmosphere open and friendly so that people of various faiths feel welcome and able to ask questions. You can set up whatever time works best for most students to attend. Many CVF groups find that meeting at lunch works well because students of different years generally have the same lunch hour, and most are already at school. You might consider using the fall as a growth semester and the spring more for outreach or evangelism with your study. Remember to always discern whether any resource is Biblically based through prayer, wise counsel, and referring back to Scripture.

Here are some Bible Study resources for your CVF group:

- The CVM Staff have written a devotional series especially for CVF student groups based on this year's theme of **"Onward"** from Hebrews 10:24.
 - Get to know the CVM family and study our theme verse from many angles.
 - Includes 2-page studies on the "One Another's" throughout the Bible, with discussion questions for your group, and short bios about each author.
- There are a number of Bible studies online on the CVM Student Resources page (<https://cvm.org/student-devotionals>) that can be downloaded for your CVF group, including the CVM devotionals: **Onward, Grateful, Clothed with Compassion, The Light, Transformed, Grace, Strong and Courageous, Hope, Peace, Joy, Draw Near, Abounding Love** and **Called**. They are put together specifically with veterinary students in mind – one of the studies is written especially for First-Year Students.
- RightNow Media – Take advantage of this gift subscription from CVM to access thousands of video Christian Bible studies and devotionals individually or for your group. Email: lcharles@cvm.org for access.
- Your group can also get together and choose any other topics for Bible study. Usually going through a book of the Bible works well. Other sources are NavPress and InterVarsity Press, or just stop by your local Christian bookstore and peruse the Group Bible Study materials.
- Many schools have found it helpful to have separate **Men's** and **Women's** studies, creating smaller more intimate groups, and encouraging vulnerability.

Prayer

Prayer is vital! *"LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief"* (Psalm 143:1, NIV). Lives centered in prayer find peace, direction, and hope. There are many ways to promote prayer within your group. Here are some ideas that have worked for CVF groups:

- Weekly prayer meeting: Set aside a time each week (such as a breakfast) for members to get together and share prayer requests and pray for one another, maybe before class one morning.
- Prayer Partners: Set up a name exchange at a CVF meeting either at the beginning of the year or at each break. Purpose to pray for the other person each day.
- Prayer requests: Collecting prayer requests can also be used as an outreach to the school at large. If your club has a shadow box or mailbox, prayer requests can be placed here and the club can pray about it at the next Bible study or prayer meeting. Some clubs send out weekly emails with prayer requests. Others use their webpage to collect prayer requests. One school even put a QR code to a Prayer Google form on bathroom stalls for people to add requests to (be sure that's okay with your school if you try this one.)
- Pray before tests: You'll be surprised how many new faces will get involved with this CVF activity, *everyone* can use some prayer before exams.
- Weekly or Monthly Praise and Worship Nights
- NAVLE Prayer: Send out Google doc to get dates 4th years are taking NAVLE boards, then pray for them.

NOTE: Remember to keep prayer requests completely confidential.

Ministry to Others

There are many ways your CVF group can serve. *Matthew 25: 44-45 (NCV) says, "Then those people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or alone and away from home or without clothes or sick or in prison? When did we see these things and not help you?' Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you refused to do for even the least of my people here, you refused to do for me.'"* Whenever we see others through the eyes of Jesus, we see how to love, serve, give and come alongside to love people toward Him.

- Connect with a local church in an ongoing, supportive ministry that is critically needed in your community.
- Start a pet food pantry to accompany a local human food pantry.
- Local food pantry/soup kitchen/Habitat for Humanity/Ronald McDonald House
- Partner with another club at school for a community service project to be "salt and light" both in the project and in relationship building with other students for His glory.
- Sponsor a family for Christmas through a program such as Angel Tree or Operation Christmas Child.
- Go to a nursing home and have a spa day with worship time.
- Visit a local camp or retreat center with horses or other livestock/pets and treat their animals.

- Check out CVM Animal Impact (www.cvm.org/animal-impact) which supports field worker projects such as the Give a Kid to a Kid goat project for children in Haiti plus many more vital ministries.

Outreach

As Christians, we are called to share our faith with those around us. *Romans 1:16 (NIV)*, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” God has given us unique opportunities in veterinary school to reach out to our classmates, faculty and staff.

- Facebook Page/Group or Website: Through your school, set up a Facebook page and Instagram account for your CVF where people can find information about your Bible studies, activities, officer and faculty advisor contact information. Additional information to include could be a list of local churches, schedule of activities, links to CVM and other websites or devotionals, etc.
- New Parent Gift Basket: Put together a special treat for students who are welcoming a child.
- Custodial Meal: Serve a meal to your school’s custodial staff to show your appreciation.
- Kick-off Encouragements: Serve a breakfast for the first-year students to introduce them to CVF, give out first-test treat bags with scripture.
- Weekly Inspirational Emails: Think of short, inspiring quotes, text, and Bible verses to send out weekly to encourage your group.
- Finals Outreach: Think of ways to reach out to the vet school at finals such as, healthy food as a potluck one lunch, candy canes to everyone, inspirational notes around the vet school.
- Pancake Breakfast: Provide waffles or pancakes during finals, but not as a fundraiser...
- Prayer Box: Set out a prayer request box at school, check it often, and pray for the needs that people have in your school.
- CVF Banner and Brochures: CVM Brochures and Banner are available to CVF groups for open house, freshman orientation, club day, annual conferences, or other campus events. Please email (studentinfo@cvmusa.org) at least 1 month in advance with the date of the event and number of brochures needed. Banners will be reserved on a first-come first-serve basis.
- Local Church List: This can be placed in students’ mailboxes, emailed to students, or posted on the club website. This is especially important for First-Year students.
- Mailbox Stuffers: These can be little packets of candy and Bible verses to put in students’ mailboxes during finals week or a particularly busy week for one class. This is a great way to show the love of Christ to your classmates in the midst of tests and stress.
- Daily Bread: provide these devotionals for anyone who wants them.
- Teddy Bear Surgery – at your school’s open house.
- Special Meal: Consider preparing a meal for those who have to work in the school hospital on special days like Thanksgiving or Christmas. Or put out free coffee, hot chocolate, and tea during final exam week.

- Ice Cream Train: As a CVF group take little cups of ice cream around to clinicians and students in the vet school as an unexpected treat.
- “Not a Bake Sale” Bake Sale: Treats are free during pre-finals. Take a snack and write a note of encouragement to someone as “payment.”
- One on One with First Years: Take them out for cupcakes or coffee and get to know them one on one.
- Focus on 1st and 4th Years: Encourage 1st and 4th Years with candy and messages in mailboxes and potlucks.

Speakers

Guest speakers are a great way to get other perspectives and delve into “real-world” topics. *Colossians 1:28 (NIV)*, “He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.” CVM has a database of dedicated Christian veterinary professionals who can speak to your group, ask your Region Rep for such a list. We recommend maintaining a list of local speakers for your area and passing it down from year to year through the CVF officers. Some speaker events can be specific to CVF, while others can easily be of interest to the whole school. Topics that could be addressed are:

- Putting God first in the hectic pace of vet school
- Short-term missions
- Dealing with difficult clients
- International veterinary work
- How to share your faith
- Balancing your family and career
- Surviving your first year out of veterinary school
- Time and money management
- Personal testimonies
- Long-term Missions
- Handling stress
- The list goes on...

Fundraisers

Fundraisers are not only effective in raising funds, they help get the message out about Jesus Christ through the ministry of CVF. Scripture reminds us that God has given us all we need for His glory (*1 Chronicles 29:11-17*). Fundraising allows your CVF to have funds for social activities, Bible study/outreach resources, short-term mission trips, and even supporting CVM fieldworkers. Below are some examples of what has worked for other clubs:

- The Animal Impact program is an amazing way to change the world for Christ! Monies raised are for animal adoption funds for fieldworkers to use to advance the Gospel in their context. (www.cvm.org/animal-impact)
- “Dine with a Doctor” auction
- 5K Fun Run
- Social Media Ask
- Facebook Dessert Auction
- Sell Care Packages to parents to deliver to students during finals –“Survival Kits”
- Rummage sale
- Chili cook-off or international dinner
- Christmas pictures with pets and Santa
- Seasonal Candy-grams
- Pet Treat Valentines
- Make Homemade Valentine’s Cards together and sell them.
- Fall Festival
- Walking Tacos
- Trivia Night
- Petting Zoo
- Pet Sitting: 60% goes to sitter, 40% goes to CVF group
- Rabies Clinic
- Carnation Sales
- Donut sales, especially during exams, \$1/donut
- Arrange with local restaurants to donate a percentage of their profit for a certain night and promote it throughout your vet school as a community/fundraising opportunity.
- Bake Sale (Donation Based), Book/CD Sales, Cookbook Sale
- Selling T-shirts, sweatshirts, bumper stickers, thermometers, postcards, surgery caps, cat toys/grass, homemade Christmas cards, fair-trade merchandise, Christmas ornaments, sunglass croquis
- Work at a Thrift Store together with other CVF members
- Have a local church provide lunch for your CVF meetings and ask everyone who attends to donate a dollar.
- Doggy Day – Wash people’s cars and dogs, throw in nail trims and ear cleanings for value added service

NOTE: Don’t be afraid to approach local churches, restaurants and businesses to ask for support and partnership with your fundraising efforts. You’ll be surprised how many people in the community want to participate in cause-minded events!

Missions

Christian Veterinary Mission provides many mission trip opportunities to CVF student groups. *Romans 10:15 (NIV), "And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"*

- **Short-Term:** Opportunities are available throughout the year and can be from 1-4 weeks in length. Many CVF groups go every year, sometimes twice or more a year! While winter and spring break trips are generally set up by request from the student group in the summer to early fall, student trips for the summer must be selected and confirmed with CVM by December 1, with the first non-refundable deposit due by January 1. Contact the short-term Missions Coordinator at (shortterm@cvm.org) for a list of short-term trips especially suited for student groups. CVM also offers online student accounts where support money for trips can be deposited and directed toward your trip. Support can be raised for these trips through family, friends, your local church and other organizations.
- **Missions Scholar Program:** Students interested in long-term missions with CVM can find a path to learn more through our Mission Scholar Program under Grow>Library>Mission Scholar Program. Ask your Region Rep for details, or check out the app.
- **International Apprenticeships:** CVM's Missions Apprenticeship Program is an opportunity available to veterinary students in their 3rd or 4th year of veterinary school (or a graduate within 3 months of graduation) who sense a call to long term/career missions. This is 4-6 weeks serving with a CVM fieldworker. A matching program exists through CVM to provide financial assistance. Applications are due November 1st, more information can be found on the CVM website: (www.cvm.org/mission-apprenticeships).
- Support missions by participating in the Animal Impact program. (www.cvm.org/animal-impact).
- **Perspectives** on the World Christian Movement: Perspectives is a 15-week course you can find at many churches, that CVM highly recommends to learn more about missions. (www.perspectives.org)

Social Activities

Social activities are a wonderful way to build community within the CVF club, and can also be a method of outreach to other students. *1 John 4:12 (NIV), "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."* You can partner with other clubs on campus such as the pre-vet club or Christian Medical Dental Association. Here are some ideas for social events:

- Field trips to a CVM affiliated veterinarian. This can be a rich time of relationship building within the group and with doctors who can mentor and support your CVF
- Fall Festival
- Pumpkin Carving
- Bonfire
- Bowling
- Pickle Ball

- Movie nights
- Potlucks/BBQ (Faculty Reps and Student Ministry Advocates love to host you)
- Game Night
- Christmas caroling
- Christmas cookie or ornament exchange
- A running group, walking group, or work-out group
- Ice cream social
- Super Bowl party
- Events with other local churches or ministries
- Church and Chicken
- Picnic in the Park
- Retreat Weekend
- Graduation Party
- Partner with another local vet school for a picnic, retreat, or service project!
- Be creative!

CVM-Related Activities

CVM is here as a resource for your fellowship. *2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV), "We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing."*

- **Two Roads Crossing:** CVM's Podcast which explores the intersection of faith and the veterinary profession is full of interesting content appropriate for your life stage as a student and a future veterinary professional. Episodes are released every other Wednesday, subscribe where you listen to podcasts, watch on our YouTube channel, or check it out on the CVM app and share with your CVF group. (www.cvm.org/podcast)
- **CVM App:** Download the CVM App to find useful information about CVM, connect with others on your short-term mission team, and find details and presentations from CVM events like RLRI and the CVM Veterinary Conference. (www.cvm.org/mobile-app)
- **Real Life Real Impact:** RLRI's are weekend student events at various locations early during the spring semester. Each year these conferences rotate between schools within each geographic region of the U.S. These events are organized by CVM and the area Region Rep with help from the host CVF group and faculty advisor. A typical weekend includes speakers, devotionals, praise and worship, and time for fellowship. Check the website (www.cvm.org/rlri) to find dates, locations, and to register. Start challenging your CVF group early to plan ahead for this awesome weekend!
- **Veterinary Conferences:** At every major veterinary conference, CVM has a booth to introduce the ministry of CVM to a wider audience and to connect to Christian doctors, techs, and students attending the conference. You will be encouraged when you stop by the booth, plus be an encouragement to others, and learn more of what is happening in the

Christian Veterinary Mission | P.O. Box 5888, Lynnwood, WA 98046 | www.cvm.org

ministry at that time. Often, there are one to two CVM gatherings at each conference: a morning breakfast and/or an evening missions seminar. If you are attending any of these conferences, please stop by the booth and ask when/where they will be occurring.

- **CVM Conference:** CVM has an annual veterinary conference with devotionals, worship, fellowship, wellbeing, ministry and missions sessions. Students enjoy a discounted rate of \$200. Let us know if you're interested, but the cost is prohibitive. Consider attending the conference with some classmates to learn more about veterinary medicine and grow in your faith. (www.cvmconference.org)
- **Externships:** Externship opportunities with Christian practitioners in the US can be found on the CVM webpage by going to (www.cvm.org/jobs). There are over 60 practices listed and more are being added, so check back often!
- **CVM's Online Job Database:** The CVM website (www.cvm.org/jobs) is regularly updated with new employment opportunities in veterinary practices across the country. This is a great resource for 4th year and graduating students.
- **CVM's Hospitality Board:** Check out the various CVM friends who are offering their places as host homes for traveling students and professionals. (www.cvm.org/hospitality)
- **Student Christian Veterinary Fellowship Facebook Group:** Join the CVF Facebook group to connect with other students from around the US and Canada as well as glean useful ideas about what other groups are doing and what's going on with CVM!
- **@CVMStudents Instagram:** Follow us on Instagram to keep up with what CVM students are doing around the world and be encouraged!

About Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM)

Started 50 years ago by Dr. Leroy Dorminy, CVM is an international, interdenominational, non-profit organization that challenges, empowers, and facilitates veterinary professionals to serve others through their profession, living out their Christian faith. We work to change lives and communities by improving the care of livestock and other animals around the world. CVM provides education, resources, and encouragement for those who desire to minister through service, prayer, relationship building, and modeling Christ's love.

CVM is based in Seattle, Washington and has over 10,000 US veterinary professionals and students involved in the organization. Since its inception in 1976, more than 85 veterinarians have served long-term in over 600 combined years of long-term mission service and more than 4,000 short-term veterinary volunteers have served in supporting long-term missions. They have shared the love of Christ by teaching and training farmers about basic animal health care, as well as through direct ministering of the gospel of Jesus Christ. CVM also serves to challenge veterinarians to workplace ministry, fellowship and sharing at professional meeting and local ministry groups. CVM staff and volunteers serve to encourage CVF student groups at over 50 universities through leadership development, retreat weekends, networking, and short-term mission opportunities.

This manual serves to provide a compilation of ideas and guidelines that can be used to help organize and facilitate a CVF chapter. CVM and your CVM Region Rep are always available as resources for your CVF group.