

Algonquin College Officially Opens its New Animal Health Care Facility

Ottawa, ON, April 11, 2007 – Algonquin College officially opened its new \$3.8 million Animal Health Care Facility on the Woodroffe Campus today, providing a leading-edge learning environment to train the graduates that are in high demand in today's animal health care industry.

"Algonquin College is very proud of this new facility," says Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College. "It will benefit students in Algonquin's veterinary programs and help address Canada's increasing shortage of animal health care workers."

The 10,131 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility replicates the primary features of an animal clinic allowing students on-campus learning experiences with the latest equipment that they would encounter in the veterinary field. Features include exam rooms, a surgical suite, a recovery unit, x-ray and developing units, laboratory analysis, food preparation and grooming areas, a dentistry lab, a treatment area, animal wards and a central sterilizing area.

"This new building allows students in our full-time Veterinary Technician Diploma program and part-time Veterinary Assistant Certificate program to learn in a realistic environment while meeting the educational needs of the local veterinary community and animal health care industry," says Jo-Ann Aubut, Chair, Allied Health, Faculty of Health, Public Safety and Community Studies at Algonquin College. "Opening a facility like this would not be possible without the support and assistance of the Algonquin Foundation, local animal shelters, and the entire veterinary community."

Under the supervision of qualified veterinarians and veterinary technicians, students learning in this new facility will provide services to animals originating from shelters so as to render them more adoptable. These services vary depending upon the needs of animals, and can include wellness testing, initial vaccinations, spaying and/or neutering, basic grooming and dentistry.

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Animal Health Care Facility - 2

Approximately 100 Veterinary Technician students and 40 Veterinary Assistant students will learn in this new building in an academic year. In addition, general workshops and professional development offerings will allow the College to provide training to a much larger number of individuals over an academic year.

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“The Animal Health Care Facility allows Algonquin to offer local training programs to educate Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants, as well as provide a venue for the local veterinary community to host meetings, conferences, and professional development workshops for clinics and their staff,” says Aubut. “Future offerings may include specialty training opportunities, such as dentistry, diagnostic imaging, equipment maintenance, haematology, urinalysis and emergency medicine.”

About Algonquin College:

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation’s Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is the third-largest college in Ontario. Algonquin is a leader in the integration of technology into learning. Algonquin College has a diverse population of nearly 16,000 full-time students and 37,000 part-time registrations in more than 140 programs and is committed to student success. For more information please visit www.algonquincollege.com.

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Backgrounder

Animal Health Care Facility - Building 'V'

Cost: \$3.8 million

Square Footage: Approximately 10,131 sq/ft

Algonquin College Programs that will benefit: The full-time Veterinary Technician Diploma program and part-time Veterinary Assistant Certificate program.

Features:

- Surgical suite
- Exam rooms
- X-ray and developing units
- Laboratory analysis
- Food preparation areas
- Laundry facilities
- Grooming areas
- Dentistry lab
- Recovery unit
- Treatment area
- Animal wards
- Central sterilizing area

How this facility will enhance learning for students:

Algonquin College's new state-of-the-art Animal Health Care Facility replicates the primary features of an animal clinic allowing students on-campus learning experiences using leading-edge equipment that they would encounter out in the veterinary field.

It will facilitate the training of skilled graduates that will be attractive to employers who are currently faced with a shortage of local veterinary technicians.

It also enhances the students' learning experiences by providing a realistic training environment prior to students' field placements.

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