



Mission Statement of the Vetsuisse Faculty

14 April 2026

Vision (our long-term aspirations)

The Vetsuisse Faculty of the University of Zurich is a globally recognized and leading center that combines expertise in research, teaching, and veterinary clinical practice.

Through innovation, we deepen biomedical understanding and push the boundaries of the veterinary medicine of tomorrow. With our interdisciplinary¹ and translational² approach, we make a significant contribution to One Health³.

Mission (our mandate)

Together with the Vetsuisse Faculty of the University of Bern, the Vetsuisse Faculty of the University of Zurich serves as Switzerland's center for veterinary medical education. It is a leading academic research institution.

The Vetsuisse Faculty is integrated into Zurich's research and innovation ecosystem and connected through national and international collaborations. Its impact extends beyond national borders. We deliberately leverage this broad network and our uniquely dense interdisciplinary research environment to support our staff and strengthen our core areas of activity:

Research: We conduct both basic and applied research⁴, built on academic freedom. We foster interdisciplinary collaboration and global, national, and local networks. We integrate the knowledge gained into the continuous development of our diverse activities.

Through pioneering research, we generate innovative insights and contribute to animal health, the protection of humans and the environment, as well as biomedical and veterinary research.

Teaching: We provide research-based veterinary education with international qualifications and promote the next generation of scientists and academics. We strengthen critical evidence-based thinking, practical skills, and interdisciplinary competencies so that our graduates can thrive as versatile professionals in a changing world.

To achieve this, we employ modern, forward-looking teaching methods and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Services – particularly through the University Animal Hospital: We provide comprehensive, cross-species veterinary care at the highest level, always with a strong focus on animal welfare and ethical practice.

Our work is grounded in the latest scientific knowledge. We develop innovative treatment methods and serve as a referral center for complex cases.

Values Compass (our guiding principles)

North: Sustainability – in our actions

East: Openness – to what lies ahead

South: Care – in our interactions with staff, patients, and partners

West: Foresight – with excellence and innovation for the future of veterinary medicine

¹ **Interdisciplinary approach:** Collaboration across different scientific disciplines to address and solve complex challenges.

² **Translational approach:** Wherever possible, research findings are directly translated into clinical practice and applied to patient care.

³ **One Health:** An awareness of the close interconnection between the health of humans, animals, and the environment, which shapes our thinking and actions to promote global health.

⁴ **Basic and applied research:** Basic research is knowledge-driven and open-ended, seeking to answer the question, "Why is this the way it is?", whereas applied research focuses more on how a specific goal or practical application can be achieved. Both are essential for driving innovation in science, medicine, and the economy.