

VETNET AI Thought Summit - Outcomes

[Press release](#)

Over three days (June 9-11, 2026), leaders in veterinary medicine, artificial intelligence, computing science, human medicine, law, the basic sciences, ethics, and education from academia, industry, government, and foundations converged at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine with a single vision of *any animal, any disease, any task*. Forty experts from 16 institutions across 6 countries (Table 1) attended an in-person event featuring keynote presentations, panel discussions, breakout groups, and discussions focused on a question: *how might we address the urgent need to build high-quality benchmark datasets and a collaborative infrastructure dedicated to animals?*

Day 1 focused on identifying the needs of different stakeholders. What emerged was the recognition that addressing this unmet need requires a collaborative ecosystem built on trust and transparency. The challenges of (lack of) data standardization, ownership, generalizability, privacy, bias, and the identification of technical and educational barriers in fully leveraging such an ecosystem would require a collective effort. The urgent need for this was clear: if such an ecosystem is not created by domain experts, there is a risk it may be done poorly, unethically, and ineffectively. Participants emphasized the need for tangible outputs: a white paper and a “minimum viable product” (MVP).

Day 2 started with a workshopped SWOT analysis: opportunities included defining veterinary data standards from the ground up, while threats centered on privacy concerns, regulatory uncertainty, and competition. The group converged on practical strategies: leveraging existing infrastructure rather than building from scratch, adopting risk-based data acquisition (starting with lower-risk datasets such as imaging), and creating transparent governance structures to build trust. Panels reinforced that veterinary professionals retain responsibility for AI-assisted decisions and that strong governance, consent, and privacy frameworks are essential to avoid misuse and maintain credibility.

Day 3 consolidated these insights into a concrete and shared mission: ***to enable responsible data and AI innovation for animals***. We identified *values* in alignment with this mission, including the importance of sustainability and environmental impacts of AI; the interconnectedness of animals, humans, and the environment under the One Health framework; the value of good data principles, such as FAIR and CARE; and the recognition of how shared datasets can accelerate innovation for both the machine learning and veterinary communities. Finally, we outlined the governance structure of the emerging VETNET organization.

Action items arising from the Summit were:

- Write a white paper and publish it on arXiv.org: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2610.14149>
- Establish 4 working groups (WGs) focusing on governance, sustainability, MVPs, and data repository;
- Roadmaps for the 4 WGs with short (< 3 months) and long-term (< 6 months) goals, around a shared immediate goal of developing an MVP: a veterinary medical image data repository as a proof-of-principle and easily scalable effort, borrowing ideas –or even infrastructure– from human medicine, while leveraging the strengths of the group’s diverse domain knowledge; and, in parallel, collaboratively building governance and ramping up efforts to secure funding;
- Establish VETNET communication channels: an e-list and monthly Zoom calls.

These action items align with the core values and the mission of *enabling responsible data and AI innovation for animals*.

Table 1. VETNET AI Thought Summit participants

Name	Current Job Title	Current Employer
Renata Ivanek	Professor of Epidemiology	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Parminder Basran	Associate professor	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Jennifer Sun	Assistant Professor of Computer Science	Cornell University Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science (USA)
Casey Cazer	Assistant Professor of Computer Science	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Tommaso Banzato	Associate Professor of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	University of Padua (Italy)
Elizabeth Barton	Co-Founder	Vet Validait (United Kingdom)
Dottie (Dorothy) Cimino Brown	Vice President Science & Healthcare Innovation	Mars, Veterinary Health (USA)
Leszek Bukowski	Chief AI Officer	VetApp (Poland)
Marta Castelhana	Associate Research Professor; Director Cornell Veterinary Biobank	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Simon Coghlan	Senior Lecturer in Digital Ethics	The University of Melbourne (Australia)
Christopher De Sa	Associate Professor of Computer Science	Cornell University Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science (USA)
Nikki Dutta	Scientific Program Officer	Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (USA)
Peter Frazier	Professor of Applied Mathematics and Statistics	Cornell University College of Engineering (USA)
Hala Ghali	Data Science Manager	The Schwarzman Animal Medical Center (USA)
Julio Giordano	Professor of Dairy Cattle Biology and Management	Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (USA)
Joshua Glass	Research Specialist	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
David Hogg	Professor of Artificial Intelligence	University of Leeds (United Kingdom)
Nicholas Hollingshead	Data Analyst	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Adam Kiehl	Health Data Scientist	Colorado State University (USA)
Monica Meduri	AI Engineer	The Schwarzman Animal Medical Center (USA)
Cliona Molony	VP R&D, Chief Data Officer & Head of Data Science	IDEXX (USA)
Kim Nayyer	Edward Cornell Law Librarian, Associate Dean for Library Services	Cornell Law School (USA)

Peter-John (PJ) Mäntylä	Professor, Small Animal Clinical Science	University of Liverpool (United Kingdom)
Christopher Pinard	Veterinary Oncologist, Lead health AI researcher	ANI.ML; Toronto Animal Cancer Centre (Canada)
Lauren Que	Regulatory Scientific Reviewer at Center for Veterinary Medicine	U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USA)
Beryl Rabindran	Life Sciences Lead	Amazon Web Services (AWS) Open Data (USA)
Scott Ross	Data Engineer	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Ron Seccia	Director of Information Technology	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Moira Sheehan	Director of Breeding Insight	University of Florida (USA)
Meg Thompson	Clinical Professor of Diagnostic Imaging	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Fei Wang	Professor of Population Health Sciences	Weill Cornell Medicine (USA)
Tracy Webb	Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences	Colorado State University (USA)
Kilian Weinberger	Professor of Computer Science	Cornell University Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science (USA)
Heather Whitney	Assistant Professor of Radiology	The University of Chicago (USA)
Gayatri Anil	DVM/PhD Candidate in Epidemiology	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Katherine Koebel	PhD Candidate in Epidemiology	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA)
Ziang Liu	PhD Student in Computer Science	Cornell University Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science (USA)
Param Mohapatra	PhD Student in Applied Mathematics	Cornell University Center for Applied Mathematics (USA)
Amelia Nelson	PhD Student in Food Science and Technology	Cornell University
Chen (Mila) Xin	PhD Candidate in Epidemiology	Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (USA) & City University of Hong Kong (HK)