

CULTIVATING PRECLINICAL EXPERTISE: THE SERUMPUN 2026 ANIMAL HANDLING WORKSHOP

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On June 23, 2026, the Laboratory Animal Facility and Management (LAFAM) at UiTM proudly hosted a dedicated training session under the SERUMPUN 2026 initiative. The workshop welcomed 36 students from the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Puthisastra, Cambodia, for an immersive and educational experience.



The Significance of Early Preclinical Training

Transitioning from textbook theory to practical in-vivo studies is a significant milestone for junior researchers. For the visiting Cambodian students, this workshop was particularly monumental, as it marked their first time handling live laboratory animals. By introducing the foundational principles of ethical animal care, LAFAM helped lay the critical groundwork for their future preclinical research.



Establishing Animal Welfare Foundations

The carefully structured program commenced with a comprehensive theoretical lecture by Assoc. Prof. Dr. John Shia Kwong Siew. Before stepping into the active laboratory environment, the students were guided through global animal welfare standards, the vital 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement), essential personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, the techniques on handling and restraining of laboratory animals, as well as oral gavage and injection procedures.



Expert Facilitation for First-Time Handlers

Following the lecture, the event transitioned into the practical handling session overseen by Veterinary Officer, Dr. Nursakinah Latifi. To ensure personalized, one-on-one mentorship for absolute beginners, the 36 participants were divided into six focused groups. Each group was led by a highly experienced Assistant Veterinary Officers: Mr. Mohamad Bashir Yaacob (Group 1), Mr. Muhammad Fadhli Mohd Azahar (Group 2), Mr. Muhammad Danial Iqra'izz (Group 3), Mdm. Nurul Aini Baharom (Group 4), Mdm. Nurlin Shafarah Md Jaffar (Group 5) and Ms. Nur Hidayah Husin (Group 6).

Through expert demonstrations and patient guidance, the facilitation team helped the students overcome their initial hesitation. They successfully empowered the young researchers to execute handling procedures safely, correctly, and compassionately.



Concluding with The Dose-Master Game

The workshop wrapped up with "The Dose-Master Game," an interactive and intellectually stimulating session led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aida Azlina Ali. This innovative activity transformed complex dosing calculations into a practical challenge, testing the students' knowledge in a dynamic and memorable way.

Fostering Future Innovators

As the SERUMPUN 2026 animal handling workshop concluded, these bright junior researchers departed with far more than technical skills. They left with a profound respect for ethical research and the practical confidence to elevate their future scientific endeavours in Cambodia.

