Biography
Professor Vanessa Barrs is the Bank of China Hong Kong (BOCHK) Chair Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Dean of the Jockey Club College of Medicine and Life Sciences. Professor Barrs is an internationally renowned One-Health Infectious Diseases researcher with broad research interests in fungal, viral and bacterial pathogens. She discovered Aspergillus felis, an opportunistic pathogen of cats, dogs and humans.
Professor Barrs has authored over 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts and textbook chapters. Before moving to Hong Kong in 2019, she was based at the University of Sydney for over 15 years Professor Barrs, where she was Head of the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Director of the University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Camperdown, Sydney.

Employment
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
City University of Hong Kong
1 May 2020 → 1 Apr 2022

Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health
City University of Hong Kong
18 Nov 2019 → 8 May 2020

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences
City University of Hong Kong
1 Dec 2019 → 19 Oct 2022

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences
City University of Hong Kong
1 Dec 2019 → 27 Oct 2022

Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
City University of Hong Kong
1 Apr 2022 → present

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences
City University of Hong Kong
19 Oct 2022 → 1 Jun 2023

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences
City University of Hong Kong
1 Jun 2023 → present

Research outputs
Malassezia dermatitis in dogs and cats
Epidemiology of Pathogenic Retroviruses and Domestic Cat Hepadnavirus in Community and Client-Owned Cats in Hong Kong

Domestic Cat Hepadnavirus and Pathogenic Retroviruses; A Sero-Molecular Survey of Cats in Santiago, Chile

Invasive fungal infections and oomycoses in cats: 2. Antifungal therapy

Invasive Fungal Infections and Oomycoses in Cats: 1. Diagnostic approach

Leptospira in community and privately-owned cats in Hong Kong: serology and urinary shedding

LEPTOSPIRA IN DOGS IN HONG KONG: SEROLOGY AND URINARY SHEDDING

Low prevalence of Babesia hongkongensis infection in community and privately-owned cats in Hong Kong

Molecular detection of Babesia spp. in community and privately-owned cats in Hong Kong

Babesia gibsoni Infection in a Cat with Immune-Mediated Haemolytic Anaemia and Thrombocytopenia

Dermatological Problems of Brachycephalic Dogs

Epidemiology of domestic cat hepadnavirus, feline leukaemia virus and feline immunodeficiency virus in Santiago, Chile

Epidemiology of pathogenic retroviruses and domestic cat hepadnavirus in client-owned and free-roaming cats in Hong Kong

Transient Babesia gibsoni infection in a cat with Evans syndrome
Prevalence of Babesia and Ehrlichia in owned dogs with suspected tick-borne infection in Hong Kong, and risk factors associated with Babesia gibsoni

Low Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in Canine and Feline Serum Samples Collected during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Hong Kong and Korea

Aspergillosis and Penicilliosis

Comments on Case Report: A fatal case of Aspergillus felis infection in an immunocompetent host

Domestic Cat Hepadnavirus: Molecular Epidemiology and Phylogeny in Cats in Hong Kong

Faecal virome of the Australian grey-headed flying fox from urban/suburban environments contains novel coronaviruses, retroviruses and sapoviruses

Does a Hepadnavirus Contribute to Chronic Hepatitis or Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Dogs?

Effectiveness of aspirin vs. clopidogrel in dogs with immune mediated haemolytic anaemia evaluated by serial thromboelastography and platelet mapping

High frequency of cholecystitis in dogs with gallbladder mucocoele in Hong Kong

Molecular prevalence and phylogeny of domestic cat hepadnavirus in unowned cats in Hong Kong

Prevalence of Asymptomatic Urinary Shedding of Pathogenic Leptospires in Asymptomatic Cats in Hong Kong

The enteric virome of cats with feline panleukopenia differs in abundance and diversity from healthy cats

Hepadnavirus DNA Is Detected in Canine Blood Samples in Hong Kong but Not in Liver Biopsies of Chronic Hepatitis or Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Malassezia: Zoonotic Implications, Parallels and Differences in Colonization and Disease in Humans and Animals

Low Intrahost and Interhost Genetic Diversity of Carnivore Protoparvovirus 1 in Domestic Cats during a Feline Panleukopenia Outbreak

Successful management of feline pemphigus foliaceus with pentoxifylline and topical hydrocortisone aceponate

In-depth characterisation of the urine metabolome in cats with and without urinary tract diseases

Oropharyngeal Shedding of Gammaherpesvirus DNA by Cats, and Natural Infection of Salivary Epithelium

A novel hepnavirus in domestic dogs

Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome: much more than a surgical problem

Potential therapeutic effects of GS-441524 and GC376 in cats with feline infectious peritonitis

Azole-resistant Aspergillus fumigatus is highly prevalent in the environment of Vietnam, with marked variability by land use type

Complete clinical response to combined antifungal therapy in two cats with invasive fungal rhinosinusitis caused by cryptic Aspergillus species in section Fumigati

Interaction Identified as both a Challenge and a Benefit in a Rapid Switch to Online Teaching during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Parkes, R. S. V. & Barrs, V. R. D., Dec 2021, In: Journal of Veterinary Medical Education. 48, 6, p. 629-635 7 p. Scopus citations: 17

Canine parvovirus is shed infrequently by cats without diarrhoea in multi-cat environments

Feline calicivirus virulent systemic disease: Clinical epidemiology, analysis of viral isolates and in vitro efficacy of novel antivirals in Australian outbreaks

Langlois, I., Barrs, V. R. & Dufresne, P. J., Sept 2021, In: Medical Mycology Case Reports. 33, p. 38

Disseminated invasive aspergillosis caused by Aspergillus felis in a cat

Modified haemagglutination inhibition assay for the detection of canine parvovirus type 2 antibodies in dog sera

Dysbiosis of the Urinary Bladder Microbiome in Cats with Chronic Kidney Disease

Cross-species transmission of retroviruses among domestic and wild felids in human-occupied landscapes in Chile

A longitudinal observational study in two cats naturally-infected with hepadnavirus

Analysis of canine parvoviruses circulating in Australia reveals predominance of variant 2b and identifies feline parvovirus-like mutations in the capsid proteins

Evaluation of a SARS-CoV-2 Surrogate Virus Neutralization Test for Detection of Antibody in Human, Canine, Cat, and Hamster Sera

Drug-Resistant Aspergillus flavus Is Highly Prevalent in the Environment of Vietnam: A new challenge for the management of aspergillosis?

Rhinitis due to Aspergillus pseudoviridinutans in an orange-winged Amazon parrot (Amazona amazonica)

SARS-CoV-2 in Quarantined Domestic Cats from COVID-19 Households or Close Contacts, Hong Kong, China

Cluster of cases of congenital feline goitrous hypothyroidism in a single hospital
Identification of feline calicivirus in cats with enteritis

Identification of Novel Astroviruses in the Gastrointestinal Tract of Domestic Cats

A history of canine parvovirus in Australia: what can we learn?

First case of feline cryptococcosis in Hong Kong, caused by Cryptococcus neoformans

Canine parvovirus prevention—What influence do socioeconomics, remoteness, caseload and demographics have on veterinarians’ perceptions and behaviors?

Canine parvovirus vaccination and immunisation failures: Are we far from disease eradication?

Phylogenetic and Geospatial Evidence of Canine Parvovirus Transmission between Wild Dogs and Domestic Dogs at the Urban Fringe in Australia

Genetic analysis of scat samples to inform conservation of the Tasmanian devil

Seroprevalence and Risk Factors for Toxoplasma gondii Infection in Owned Domestic Cats in Australia

Feline disseminated cutaneous phaeohyphomycosis due to Exophiala spinifera

Feline Parvovirus Seroprevalence Is High in Domestic Cats from Disease Outbreak and Non-Outbreak Regions in Australia

Fungal Rhinosinusitis and Disseminated Invasive Aspergillosis in Cats

Canine parvovirus prevention and prevalence: Veterinarian perceptions and behaviors
Identification of a Novel Papillomavirus Associated with Squamous Cell Carcinoma in a Domestic Cat

Socioeconomic, geographic and climatic risk factors for canine parvovirus infection and euthanasia in Australia

Evidence of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 in cats and dogs from households in Italy

Distinct Lineages of Feline Parvovirus Associated with Epizootic Outbreaks in Australia, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates

Genetic polymorphisms in toll-like receptors 1, 2, and 4 in feline upper respiratory tract aspergillosis

cyp51A Mutations, Extrolite Profiles, and Antifungal Susceptibility in Clinical and Environmental Isolates of the Aspergillus viridinutans Species Complex

Prevalence and risk factors for Felis catus gammaherpesvirus 1 detection in domestic cats in Italy

A Novel Hepadnavirus is Associated with Chronic Hepatitis and Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Cats

Feline upper respiratory tract infection and disease in Australia

Feline Panleukopenia: A Re-emergent Disease

Fecal Viral Diversity of Captive and Wild Tasmanian Devils Characterized Using Virion-Enriched Metagenomics and Metatranscriptomics

Breed-specific variations in the coding region of toll-like receptor 4 in the domestic cat
MULTISYSTEM DISEASES

Consequences and Management of Canine Brachycephaly in Veterinary Practice: Perspectives from Australian Veterinarians and Veterinary Specialists

Suspected adverse drug interaction between spinosad and milbemycin oxide in a cat

The geographic distribution and financial impact of canine parvovirus in Australia

Acute adrenal haemorrhage in two cats with aldosterone-secreting adenocarcinomas

Identification of hepadnavirus in the sera of cats

Looking like the locals - gut microbiome changes post-release in an endangered species

Unravelling species boundaries in the Aspergillus viridinutans complex (Section Fumigati): opportunistic human and animal pathogens capable of interspecific hybridization

Long term survival of a dog with disseminated Aspergillus deflectus infection without definitive treatment

Identification of pathogenic Aspergillus isolates from captive birds in Australia

Shelter-housed cats show no evidence of faecal shedding of canine parvovirus DNA

Surveillance for azole resistance in clinical and environmental isolates of Aspergillus fumigatus in Australia and cyp51A homology modelling of azole-resistant isolates
Toxoplasmosis
Barrs, V., Sept 2018, In: Australian Veterinary Practitioner. 48, 3, p. 76-78Scopus citations: 1

Transcriptome Analysis and In Situ Hybridization for FcaGHV1 in Feline Lymphoma

A Novel Hepadnavirus Identified in an Immunocompromised Domestic Cat in Australia

Antifungal Susceptibility of the Aspergillus viridinutans Complex: Comparison of Two In Vitro Methods

Molecular Diagnosis of Felis catus Gammaherpesvirus 1 (FcaGHV1) Infection in Cats of Known Retrovirus Status with and without Lymphoma

One-health pathogens in the Aspergillus viridinutans complex

Feline Aspergillosis

PECULIARITIES OF FELINE HYPERADRENOCORTICISM: Update on diagnosis and treatment

Antimicrobial Prescribing in Dogs and Cats in Australia: Results of the Australasian Infectious Disease Advisory Panel Survey

Felis Catus Gammaherpesvirus 1 DNAemia in Whole Blood from Therapeutically Immunosuppressed or Retrovirus-Infected Cats

Discovery of Aspergillus frankstonensis sp. nov. during environmental sampling for animal and human fungal pathogens

Pharmacokinetics of caspofungin acetate to guide optimal dosing in cats

Detection of Felis catus gammaherpesvirus 1 (FcaGHV1) in peripheral blood B- and T-lymphocytes in asymptomatic, naturally-infected domestic cats
Comparison of genotypes of *Toxoplasma gondii* in domestic cats from Australia with latent infection or clinical toxoplasmosis


Evaluation of Serum *Aspergillus*-Specific Immunoglobulin A by Indirect ELISA for Diagnosis of Feline Upper Respiratory Tract Aspergillosis


Immunohistochemical Analysis of Leucocyte Subsets in the Sinonasal Mucosa of Cats with Upper Respiratory Tract Aspergillosis


CT findings in two cats with bronchiolithiasis


Differentiation between dogs with thrombosis and normal dogs using the overall hemostasis potential assay


Sinonasal aspergillosis in a British Shorthair cat in the UK


Aldosterone and progesterone-secreting adrenocortical adenocarcinoma in a cat with a concurrent meningioma


Gastrointestinal granuloma due to *Candida albicans* in an immunocompetent cat


Congenital vestibular disease in captive Sumatran tigers (*Panthera tigris ssp. sumatrae*) in Australasia


Azole resistance in canine and feline isolates of *Aspergillus fumigatus*


MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Vanessa Barrs

Barrs, V., Sept 2015

Effect of age and surgical approach on perioperative wound complication following ovariohysterectomy in shelter-housed cats in Australia


EFFECTS OF TWO CONTRAST INJECTION PROTOCOLS ON FELINE AORTIC AND HEPATIC ENHANCEMENT USING DYNAMIC COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

Human-associated fluoroquinolone-resistant *Escherichia coli* clonal lineages, including ST354, isolated from canine feces and extraintestinal infections in Australia
Guo, S., Wakeham, D., Brouwers, H. J., Cobbold, R. N., Abraham, S., Mollinger, J. L., Johnson, J. R., & 4 others

Detection of *Aspergillus*-specific antibodies by agar gel double immunodiffusion and IgG ELISA in feline upper respiratory tract aspergillosis

Orbital actinomycotic mycetoma caused by Streptomyces cinnamoneus
Walton, S., Martin, P., Tolson, C., Plumridge, S. & Barrs, V. R., 1 Jan 2015, In: Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery Open Reports. 1, 1Scopus citations: 2

Use of sildenafil citrate in a cat with Eisenmenger’s syndrome and an atrial septal defect

Evaluation of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in matched cat sera and house dust samples: Investigation of a potential link between PBDEs and spontaneous feline hyperthyroidism

Closing the gap on causal processes of infection risk from cross-sectional data: structural equation models to understand infection and co-infection

Nasofacial infection in a cat due to a novel bacterium in Neisseriaceae

Disseminated *Scedosporium prolificans* infection in a Labrador retriever with immune mediated haemolytic anaemia

PBDEs and feline hyperthyroidism

Atypical, abscessated nasopharyngeal polyp associated with expansion and lysis of the tympanic bulla

Computed tomographic features of feline sino-nasal and sino-orbital aspergillosis

Development of MHC-linked Microsatellite Markers in the Domestic Cat and Their Use to Evaluate MHC Diversity in Domestic Cats, Cheetahs, and Gir Lions
Felis catus gammaherpesvirus 1; a widely endemic potential pathogen of domestic cats

What causes canine sino-nasal aspergillosis? A molecular approach to species identification

Feline Aspergillosis

Postoperative monitoring and management of complications

Preoperative assessment for surgery

Evaluation and modification of the overall hemostasis potential assay for use with canine plasma

Clinical Findings and Survival in Cats Naturally Infected with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

Aspergillus felis sp. nov., an Emerging Agent of Invasive Aspergillosis in Humans, Cats, and Dogs

Fluoroquinolone-resistant extraintestinal pathogenic Escherichia coli, including O25b-ST131, isolated from faeces of hospitalized dogs in an Australian veterinary referral centre

Evaluation of serum galactomannan detection for diagnosis of feline upper respiratory tract aspergillosis

Hypersensitivity pneumonitis in a dog associated with Geastrum triplex spores

Feline low-grade alimentary lymphoma: how common is it?

Laryngeal disease in 69 cats: a retrospective multicentre study
Probable lumbar acute non-compressive nucleus pulposus extrusion in a cat with acute onset paraparesis
Scopus citations: 16

Prevalence of canine haemotropic mycoplasma infections in Sydney, Australia

Type III hemifacial microsomia in a kitten
Scopus citations: 1

Developments in undergraduate teaching of small-animal soft-tissue surgical skills at the University of Sydney

FELINE ALIMENTARY LYMPHOMA: 1. Classification, risk factors, clinical signs and non-invasive diagnostics

FELINE ALIMENTARY LYMPHOMA: 2. Further diagnostics, therapy and prognosis

Severe systemic hypertension in a cat with pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism
Scopus citations: 20

Sinonasal and sino-orbital aspergillosis in 23 cats: Aetiology, clinicopathological features and treatment outcomes

Markers of feline leukaemia virus infection or exposure in cats from a region of low seroprevalence

Dyspnoea and pulmonary consolidation in a cat with T-cell lymphoma

Histopathological and Immunohistochemical Evaluation of 53 Cases of Feline Lymphoplasmacytic Enteritis and Low-Grade Alimentary Lymphoma


Suspected pituitary apoplexy in a dog
Focal pulmonary granuloma caused by *Cladophialophora bantiana* in a domestic short haired cat
Scopus citations: 21

Use of bisphosphonates to treat severe idiopathic hypercalcaemia in a young Ragdoll cat
Scopus citations: 23

Encrusting cystitis in a cat secondary to *Corynebacterium urealyticum* infection
Scopus citations: 19

Diagnostic aids for pleural effusion in the cat: Response

Myelitis due to reactivated spinal toxoplasmosis in a cat
Scopus citations: 21

PLEURAL EFFUSION IN THE CAT: A practical approach to determining aetiology
Scopus citations: 29

Scopus citations: 19

Prevalence of *Bartonella* species, *Rickettsia felis*, haemoplasmas and the *Ehrlichia* group in the blood of cats and fleas in eastern Australia
Scopus citations: 83

Intestinal strangulation after elective ovariohysterectomy
Scopus citations: 9

Concurrent feline infectious peritonitis and toxoplasmosis in three cases
Scopus citations: 1

Hyperaldosteronism and hyperprogesteronism in a cat
Scopus citations: 43

Retinal degeneration in the Abyssinian and Somali cat (rdAc): correlation between genotype and phenotype and rdAc allele frequency in two continents
Scopus citations: 11

Low-grade alimentary lymphoma: clinicopathological findings and response to treatment in 17 cases
Scopus citations: 97

Feline pyothorax - new insights into an old problem: Part 2. Treatment recommendations and prophylaxis
Scopus citations: 31
Feline pyothorax - New insights into an old problem: Part 1. Aetiopathogenesis and diagnostic investigation

Erythrocytic pyruvate kinase deficiency and AB blood types in Australian Abyssinian and Somali cats

Molecular Characterization of a Novel Fastidious Mycobacterium Causing Lepromatous Lesions of the Skin, Subcutis, Cornea, and Conjunctiva of Cats Living in Victoria, Australia

Bradyarrhythmia in an anaesthetised, elderly, hypertensive cat

Palatine haemorrhage in the cat: Life-saving haemostasis

Choanal atresia in a Himalayan cat - first reported case and successful treatment

Intracranial empyema: literature review and two novel cases in cats

Protothecosis in 17 Australian dogs and a review of the canine literature

Feline sino-orbital aspergillosis: an emerging clinical syndrome

Use of a bipedicle mucoperiosteal flap to treat arterial haemorrhage from palatine ulcers in three cats

Suspected clindamycin-associated oesophageal injury in cats: five cases

Crusted scabies (sarcoptic mange) in four cats due to Sarcoptes scabiei infestation

Feline cholecystitis and acute neutrophilic cholangitis: clinical findings, bacterial isolates and response to treatment in six cases
Disseminated *Mycobacterium avium* infection in young cats: overrepresentation of Abyssinian cats

Antemortem diagnosis and treatment of toxoplasmosis in two cats on cyclosporin therapy

Feline pyothorax: a retrospective study of 27 cases in Australia

Feline immunodeficiency virus vaccine issues


Acute toxoplasmosis in two cats on cyclosporin therapy

Pemphigus foliaceus

Hypereosinophilic paraneoplastic syndrome in a cat with intestinal T cell lymphosarcoma

Spontaneous hepatic rupture in six cats with systemic amyloidosis

Gastroduodenal ulceration in cats: eight cases and a review of the literature

Nasopharyngeal Disorders of Dogs and Cats: A Review and Retrospective Study

Prevalence of autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease in Persian cats and related-breeds in Sydney and Brisbane

Use of multilocus enzyme electrophoresis to distinguish clinically important strains of *Staphylococcus intermedius* from the skin of dogs

Peripheral vestibular disease associated with cryptococcosis in three cats
Pulmonary cryptococcosis and *Capillaria aerophila* infection in an FIV-positive cat

Feline Leprosy due to Infection with novel Mycobacterial Species

Intestinal obstruction by trichobezoars in five cats

What is your diagnosis?

Vegetative endocarditis in six cats

**Concurrent Aelurostrongylus abstrusus infection and salmonellosis in a kitten**

Acute collapse in a cat
BARRS, V. R., WATSON, A. D. J. & NICOLL, R. G., Feb 1999Scopus citations: 1

Pneumonia associated with *Mycoplasma* spp in three cats

Nasopharyngeal cryptococcosis

Benign cranial mediastinal lesions in three cats

**Grants**

**Projects**

**HMRF: A System-Level and Multidimensional Quantification and Prediction of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Animals: Are There Implications for Control of Human Infections?**

**ASDC: Centre for Animal Health and Welfare**
Beatty, J. & BARRS, V. R. D. 1/08/20 → …
SIRG: Effect of Aspergillus Fungi on Mosquito Mortality by Altering Their Gut Microbiome and Antifungal Immunity
SPARAGANO, O. A., BARRS, V. R. D., MATSUDA, Y. & SHEN, F.
1/04/23 → 6/10/23

DON_RMG: Identifying Infectious Causes of Chronic Kidney Disease in Cats – A First Step towards Prevention and Cure - RMGS
BARRS, V. R. D., LI, J., MAGOURAS, I., NEKOUEI JAHROMI, O. A. & PFEIFFER, D. U.
1/08/21 → …

REG: Research Enhancement Grant for RAE (JCC)
BARRS, V. R. D.
1/03/22 → …