Implementing better training for veterinarians: Resources and strategies

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Animal experimentation is found in separate but related fields:

> Education & training

> Research

> Testing
Animal use in education & training

The majority of conventional animal use has been harmful, and may comprise:

> Dissection of purpose-killed animals

> Animal experimentation

> Other instrumental animal use
Education and training

Education and training of students and trainees

through the use of humane innovations (alternatives)

to gain knowledge and skills

> Alternatives are the tools for the process of education

> Not education about or training in alternatives

for research and testing
Education & training at secondary, higher and professional level

> Higher education: Veterinary, medical and biology faculties

> Disciplines of anatomy, pathology, physiology, pharmacology, clinical skills & surgery

> Practical classes and training events
The real thing

Myth: Animal experimentation is ‘the real thing’. Alternatives are not.

Clarification: This confuses the method with the objective
Animal experimentation is just one method
The ‘real thing’ is effective gaining of knowledge, skills and attitudes
Key points

A matter of curricular design, defining teaching objectives, and choice of tools and approaches to enhance the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes
Education about ethics, alternatives and animal welfare

Teaching about ethics, alternatives & animal welfare while practicing harmful animal use is inconsistent, and the lessons may be negated by harmful animal use.

The use of replacement alternatives in education & training is a significant aspect of the ethics, alternatives & animal welfare education put into practice. Needs to be parallel.
Positive change

Significant progress in implementation and in replacement

Clinical and surgical skills labs in veterinary medicine

Value of case studies to share experience and to facilitate further change
A taste of innovative alternatives
A taste of innovative alternatives
A taste of innovative alternatives
Information resources

Alternatives database

Studies Database
Transitions already achieved

Experience from peers

Development and implementation
Film series

DVM: Training the Animal Doctor
A documentary film series

Full episodes, summary versions, associated database
Aims

Provide a bold vision of a humane veterinary degree
Showcase humane innovations and enhanced education
Demonstrate feasibility of full replacement
Catalyse the transition
Provide training material
Content of film series

Follows the trajectory of a veterinary degree

Pedagogical theme: teaching objectives, effective knowledge and skills acquisition

Intersecting with scientific, ethical, environmental, social and economic aspects
Content of film series – cont’d

Discipline, typical course and practical class, typical species

All types of alternatives, selected exemplary products

Filmed interviews, demos, practical classes

Multicultural, international, diverse and inclusive content

International distribution
Current episode

‘Surgery and the SynDaver Canine’

Whole episode as a case study; SynDaver, Cornell, UF

Illustrating anatomical features and functionalities within clinical skills and surgery training, esp abdominal procedures

Exploring mentorship, range of skill sets, iterative nature, skills mastery, and degrees of fidelity of models
Content of forthcoming episodes

All other disciplines

Types of alternative tool: VR anatomy, virtual physiology lab, clinical skills and basic surgery models

Types of alternative approaches: body donation program, clinical learning opportunities

Range of products made by universities and companies

Ethical careers
InterNICHE provision of resources, support and training

Alternative Loan Systems

Small grants and freeware

Support for conscientious objectors

Conferences, outreach tours and training
Other resources

Other online alternatives eg virtual-physiology.com

Other information resources eg NORINA, ATLA, Altex

DIY incl collaborative & interdisciplinary

Lush Prize (> £2m distributed since 2012) at lushprize.org
Thank you for listening

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