



# Implementing better training for veterinarians: Resources and strategies

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# **Animal experimentation**



**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**



## **Educational levels and structure**



### **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**



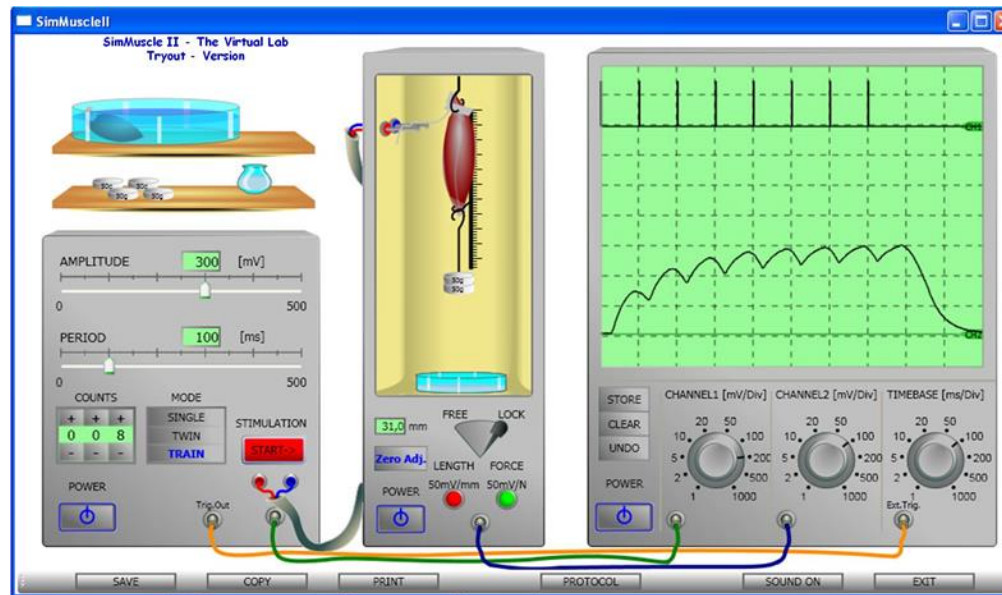
**Significant progress in implementation and in replacement**

**Clinical and surgical skills labs in veterinary medicine**

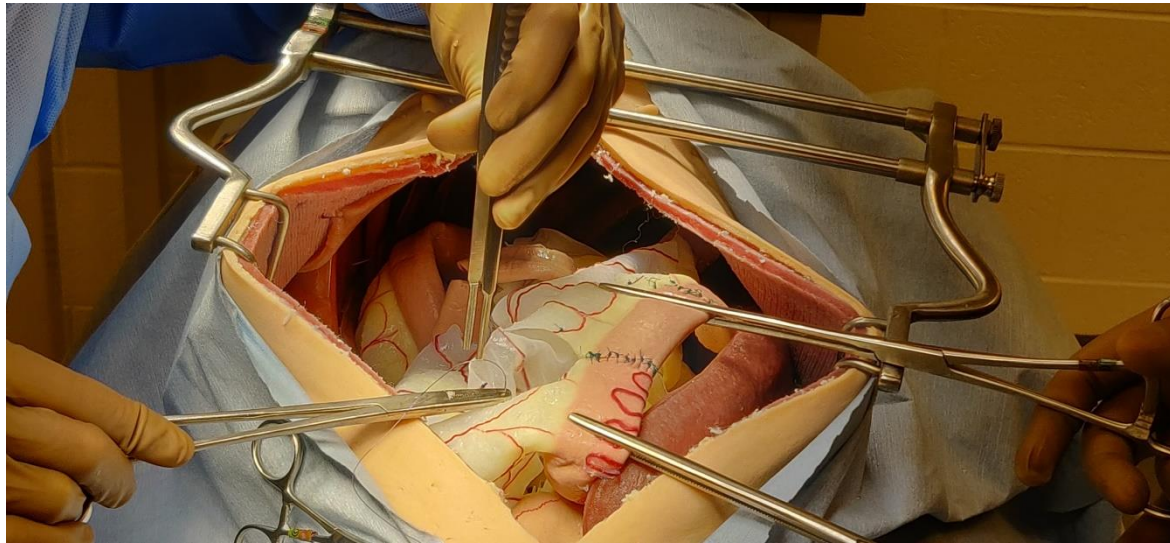
**Value of case studies to share experience and to facilitate further change**



# A taste of innovative alternatives



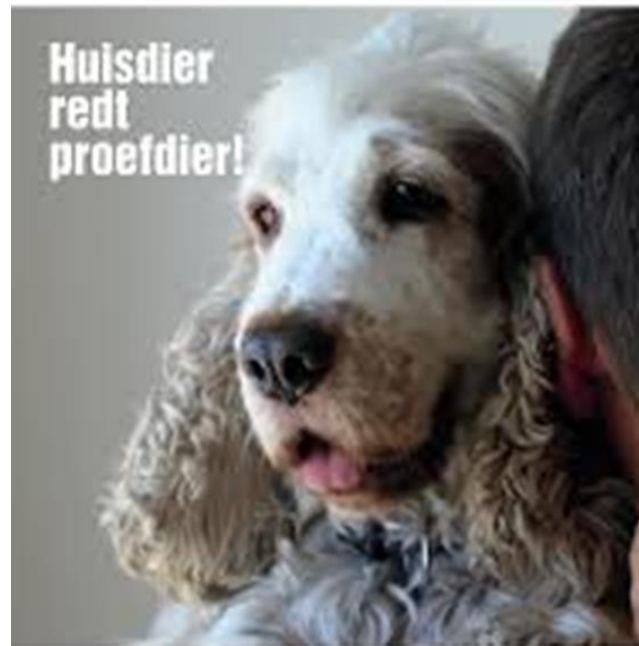
# A taste of innovative alternatives



# A taste of innovative alternatives



## DIERDONORCODICIL



PROEFVERWIJ

Colsonbain Utrecht 



InterNICHE

# 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](http://virtual-physiology.com)

Other information resources eg NORINA, ATLA, Altex

DIY incl collaborative & interdisciplinary

Lush Prize (> £2m distributed since 2012) at [lushprize.org](http://lushprize.org)





**Thank you for listening**

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