Exposing Veterinary Students to Community Extension Programs: Embracing the One Health Approach

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ONE HEALTH

The **One Health (OH) Approach** is increasingly acknowledged as paramount in addressing global health challenges.

One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent (OHHLEP)





Community extension programs enhance awareness of resources, improve education, and strengthen community relationships.

For the **students**:

- ✓ Practical experience
- ✓ Communication skills
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Cultural competency
- ✓ Community Service
- ✓ Confidence building

OBJECTIVES

The general objective is to expose veterinary students to community extension programs, enhancing their understanding of the One Health approach.

Specifically:

- 1. Improve veterinary students' confidence in their communication, collaboration, coordination, and capacity-building skills (the 4Cs);
- 2. Assess veterinary students' increased appreciation and awareness of the One Health approach;
- 3. Evaluate veterinary students' interest in continued involvement in community initiatives.

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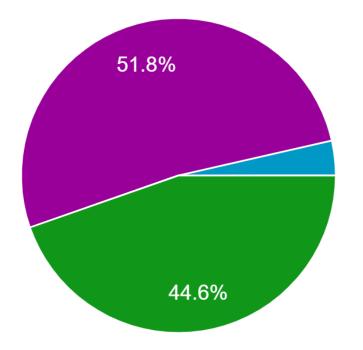
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A 10-question Google form, answered by 56 students (2nd to 4th year DVM), assessed their postactivity confidence in the 4Cs, appreciation and awareness of One Health, and interest in future involvement.

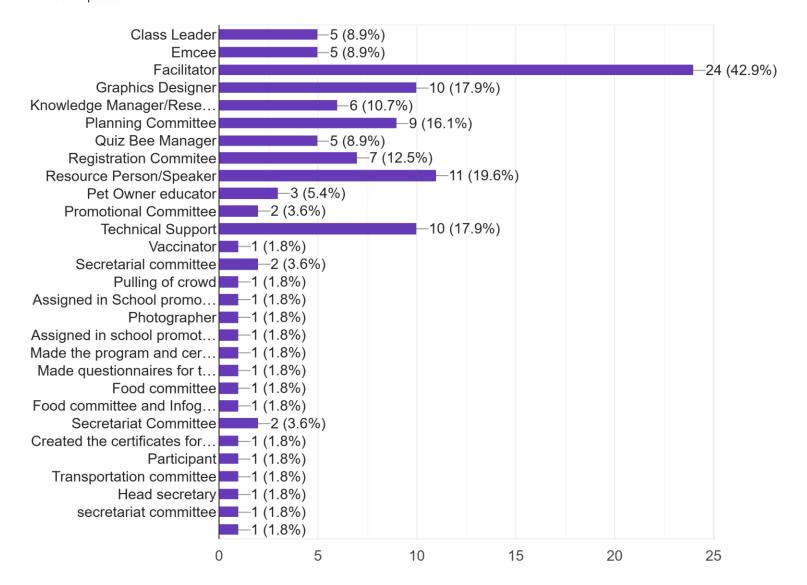
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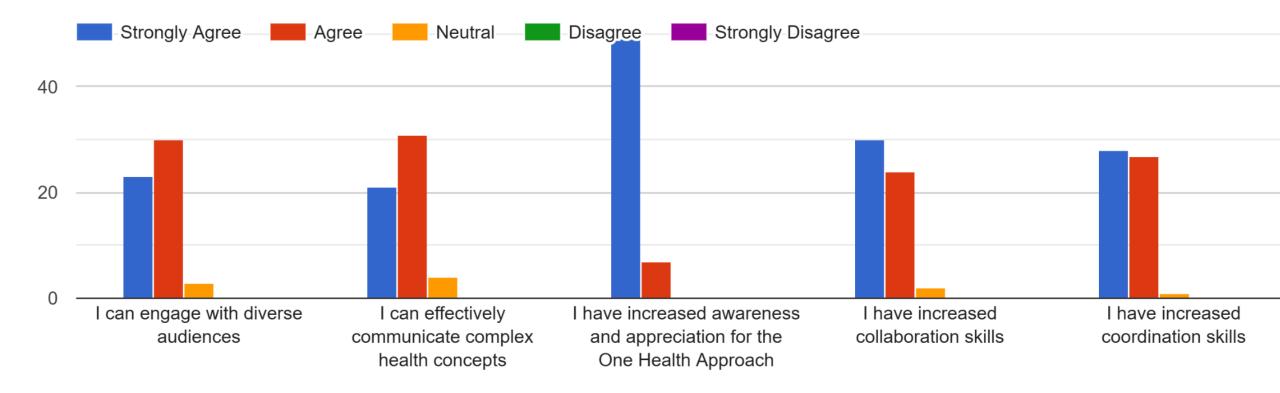




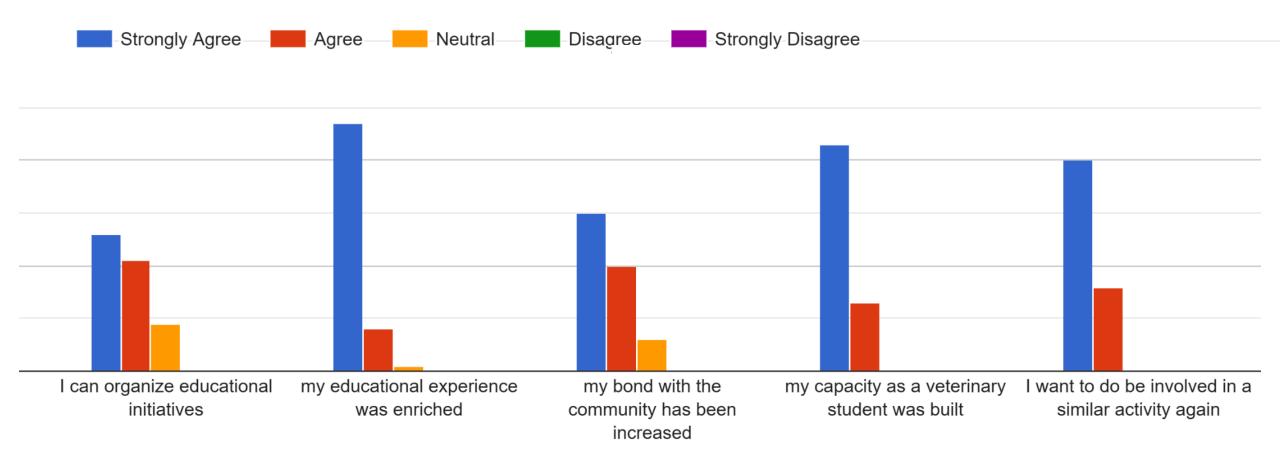
What was your role? 56 responses



After this experience and task, I feel that...



After this experience and task, I feel that...



The majority strongly agreed with the **positive impacts**, with minimal neutral responses and none disagreeing. The results suggest that students felt capable of engaging with diverse audiences, communicating complex health concepts, and had an increased appreciation for the One Health Approach and the community

Integrating community extension into the veterinary curriculum enriches students' educational experiences, strengthens community bonds, and promotes the One Health approach. By championing collaborative and outreach efforts, these activities emphasize the **pivotal role of the future veterinary workforce** in addressing global health challenges and fostering community well-being.



Thank you very much! *Maraming* Salamat po! *Dios* Mabalos po!

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