It looks like a classroom to us.

Veterinary Nursing is the pacific

Laura Harvey* Dip. VN, BSc, PG Cert Vet Ed.
Rebecca Ladyman* BSc, BVSc
Kristie Cameron, MSc, PhD

*Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand

Authentic real-world learning

Introduction

- Credit bearing course – week-long clinic
- In collaboration with South Pacific Animal Welfare
- Apply theory and skills they have learnt in class, to a high-pressure real world situation
- Alongside veterinarians and qualified veterinary nurses.

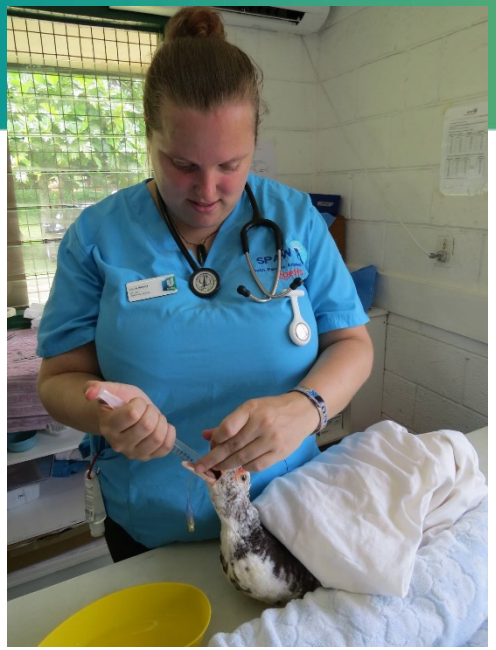
Introduction

- Students deal with primarily companion animals (cats and dogs)

Introduction

- Mostly desexing – occasionally something more complicated

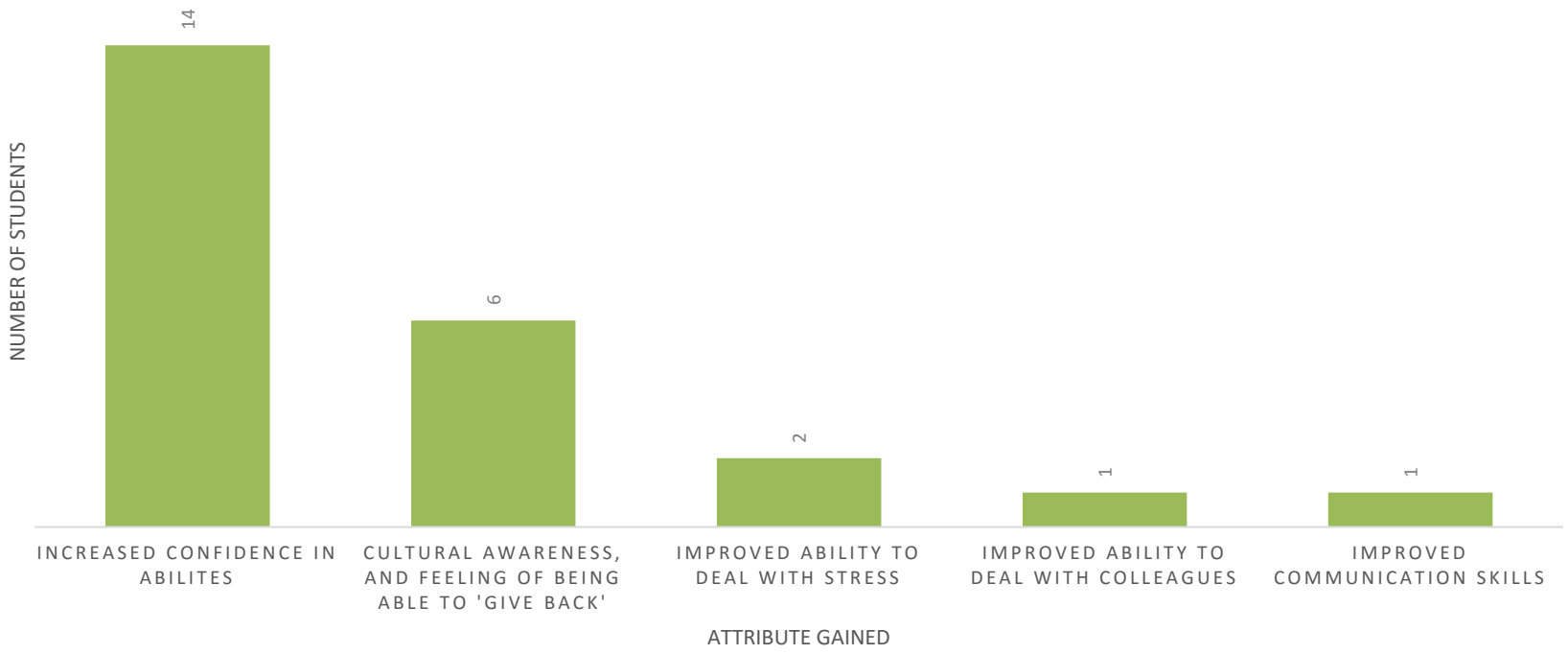
- The odd pig/horse/other gets treated



Introduction

- Averaging almost 200 surgeries over the week.
- Sometimes in a village hall!

WHAT DID YOU GAIN (PERSONALLY) FROM THE TRIP?

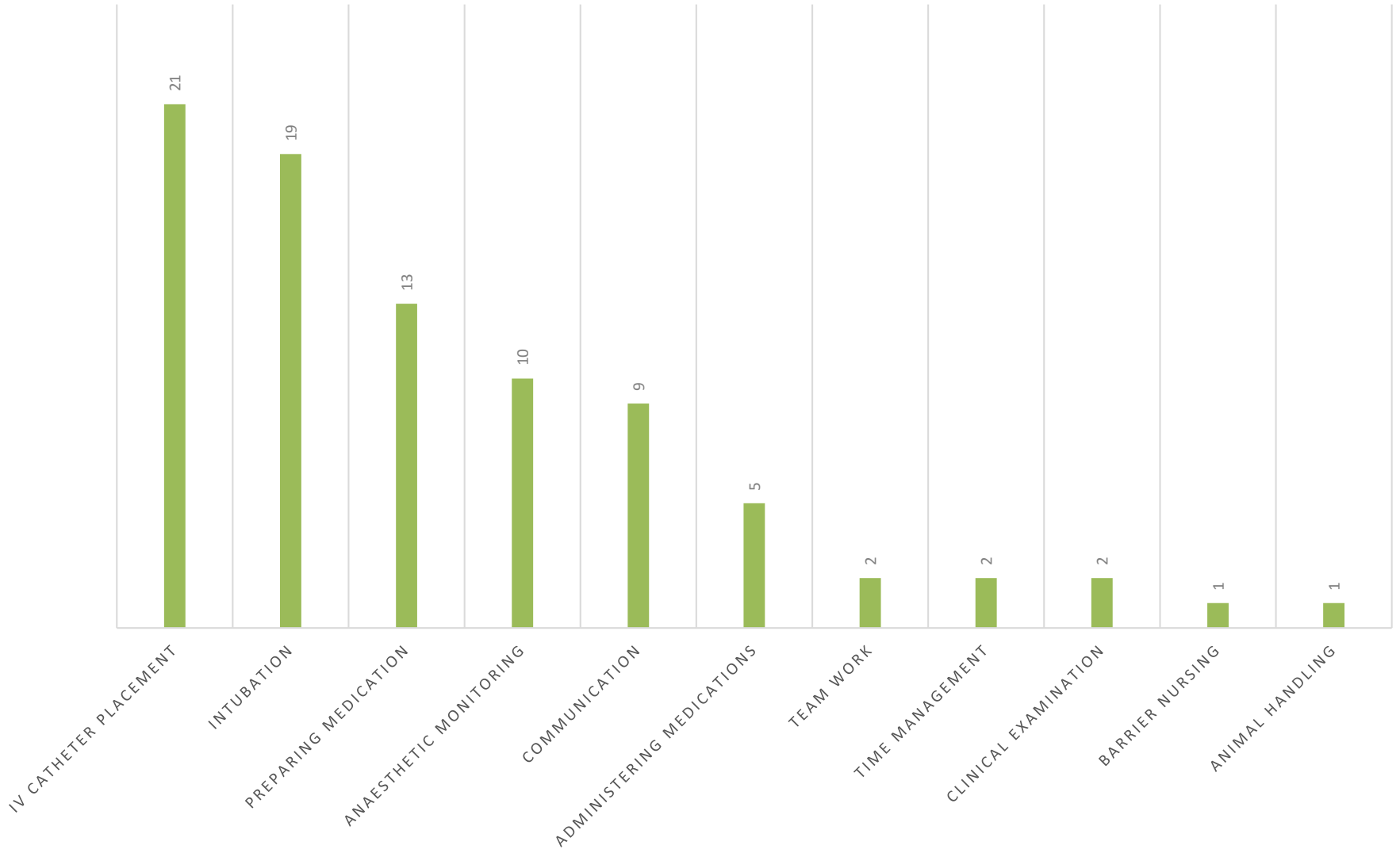


48 students have completed the trip, another 14 this year.

58% of those surveyed noted increased confidence was the main personal attribute gained from the trip.

Many others mentioned increased confidence with regard to their veterinary nursing abilities.

WHAT VETERINARY NURSING SKILLS DID YOU GAIN FROM THIS TRIP?



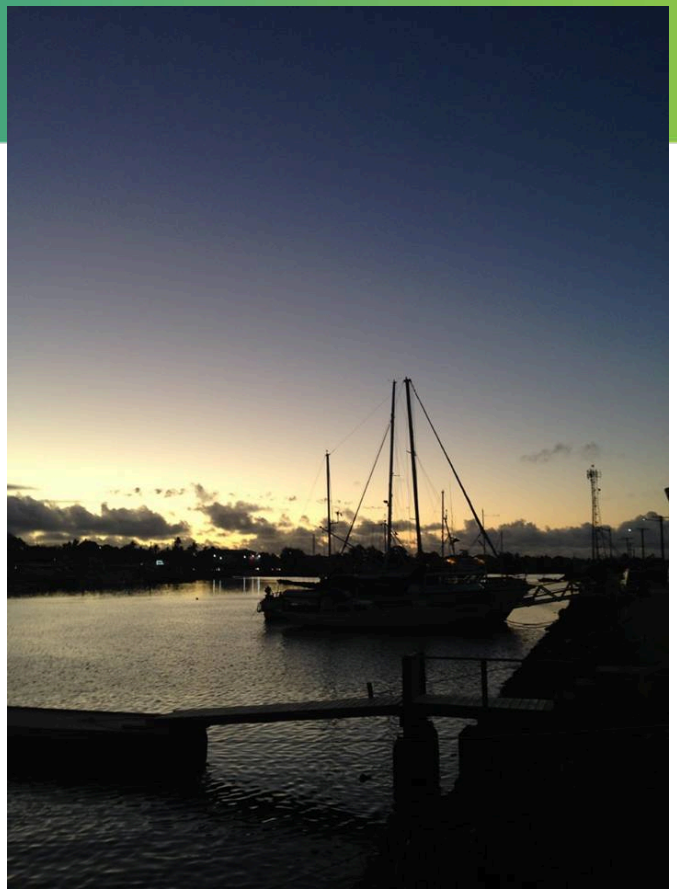
96% reported having learnt skills vital to their future success as a vet nurse

Students helping students

Unique challenges

Unique challenges

Time to relax



Conclusions

- The large majority of students gained an increased level of confidence in their abilities as a veterinary nurse.
- Students benefit both personally and professionally from their participation.

Department of Natural Sciences
Unitec

WHAT THEY SAID

I believe in myself now,

Made me a better vet nurse,

Learnt new skills,

Learnt crucial skills

Amazing, positive experience

By the end, I felt like a real nurse

I put all I had learnt to the test

Massive amount of hands-on experience