

Veterinary nurses in service of the community

MODULES: CVP 200, GSV 200, TPR 200, NAR 200, MVP 200 and RAV 200

Course description

These modules provide knowledge and advanced nursing skills to the final-year veterinary nursing students registered for the veterinary nursing diploma programme at the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria. Veterinary nurses form an integral part of the veterinary health care team.

Community challenges

The current important challenges faced by veterinary health care providers at community level in South Africa are the provision of accessible and affordable veterinary health care for various animal species to all animal owners and to preserve the health and welfare of these animals. In addition, although food security has emerged as a global priority, the government has taken the initiative to work towards rural and urban food-secure households.

Opportunity description

The engagement of veterinary nursing students involves students

visiting various communities and focusing on animal health. The goal of these visits is to educate animal owners in animal health and care, to provide primary animal health care and other nursing interventions to animals and to build relationships with these communities.

Impact

During our visits we interacted with all community members, with a focus on the implications of education and the effects that the provision of primary health and other veterinary services have on the community as a whole. Our intention was to improve the quality of life for both humans and animals in these communities. By engaging the community, it challenges them to become involved and to work towards a healthy animal population and to provide sustainable food security.

Community partners

Various rural and urban communities, non-profit organisations and veterinary practices in South Africa.