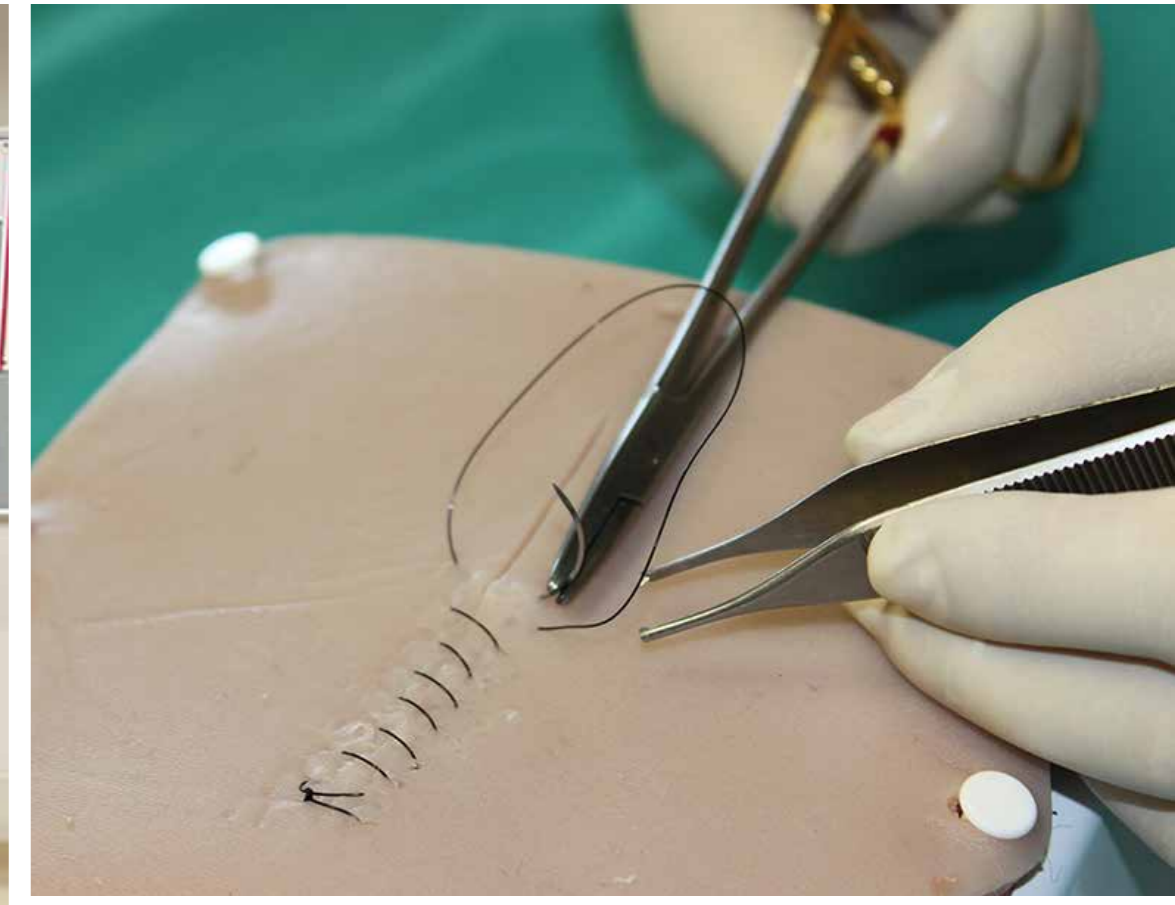


# A teaching tip: implementation of “species circuits” in the veterinary skills laboratory

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The appointment of a full-time teaching assistant enabled the veterinary skills laboratory to offer additional practical sessions. One of the training additions are “species circuits” for small animals (SA), equines (EQ) and production animals (PA) which consist of a variety of models/stations to expose final year students to a range of species related procedures.

The aim is to enhance the students’ clinic learning experience through supervised practice opportunities for specific skills. The advantages are that all students can practice certain procedures independent of patient availability and that the procedures practiced relate to the clinic rotation the students are on at that time.

## The circuits consist of the following stations/models:

**SA medicine circuit:** endotracheal intubation, IV catheter placement, blood sampling, blood tube identification, clinical pathology station, heart-and lungsound simulator, cystocentesis (blind and U/S guided), urethral catheter placement in the female dog, prostate palpation, nasogastric tube placement, thoracocentesis and skin biopsy.

**SA surgery circuit:** canine ovariohysterectomy model, gowning and gloving, suturing, scrubbing, draping, surgical dexterity and instrument identification.

**EQ circuit:** IV blood sampling, IV catheter placement, IM injection, abdominocentesis, using a twitch, tail bandaging, teeth models for ageing and haptic horse.

**PA circuit:** bovine IV and IM injection, bovine and ovine blood sampling, stomach tube placement and fluid administration into the rumen, bovine skin and hollow organ suturing, some aspects of bull breeding soundness examination (sheath scrape, scrotal palpation, scrotal circumference measurement, rectal examination), ovine body condition scoring, ovine handling, insemination and intravaginal sponge placement, and haptic cow.

