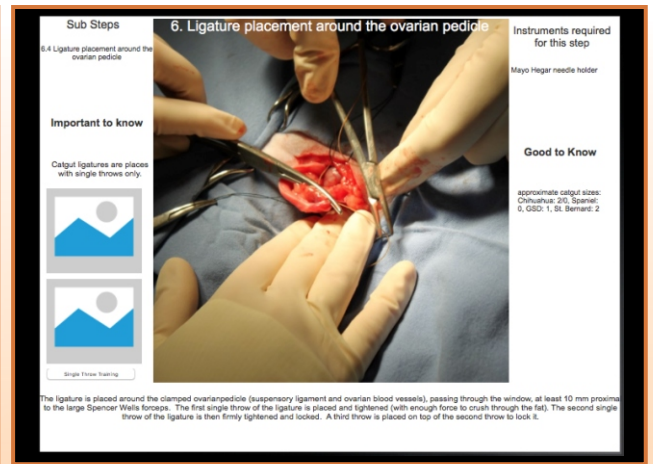


The OVH App: An interactive approach to preparation and improved surgical competence



In order to better prepare clinical year students at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa, for their first live animal ovariohysterectomy (OVH), an interactive touch screen OVH application was developed.

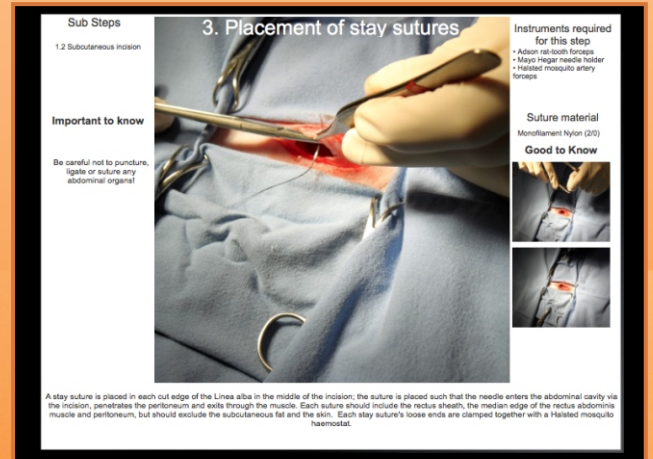
Currently run within the Android operating system, it takes users through all surgical steps of a canine OVH on either their smartphones or tablets as an adjunct to theoretical training and in preparation for the actual surgical procedure.

Surgical steps are divided into substeps and the screen for each individual substep shows a high-resolution photograph of that part of the procedure, an explanation of the surgical technique, an “important to know” and a “good to know” field.

The operator uses touch screen technology to indicate the surgical incision line, where ligatures are placed, to choose surgical instruments and suture material. Some screens have links to video clips illustrating important aspects of steps like tying a single throw catgut ligature.

The first version of the application will be tested by clinical year students in 2016. User feedback will be actively sought and suggestions for improvement evaluated and implemented. The final version will have a “practice” and a “test” mode which determines if feedback will be given immediately at each step or after completion of the whole surgery.

This will in future enable the use of the application for assessment purposes and ensure adequate knowledge of the surgical procedure before students perform their first live animal OVH.



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