

An intense one-day skills laboratory surgical training circuit to improve students' performance on a newly introduced neuter clinic

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The introduction of a one week neuter clinic into the final year clinic rotations (of a six-year course) at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, was used to also implement a skills laboratory day as part of the surgical training. First students practice instrument identification and handling, draping, scrubbing, gloving, gowning and suturing while supervision is offered by a senior veterinary sister. Subsequent to the surgical part-task training, students observe a real-life canine OVH demonstration done by a specialist surgeon in theatre and a spay model OVH demonstration in the skills laboratory. Students then perform an OVH as whole-task training on medium-fidelity silicone spay models.¹ Students work in pairs during the OVH model practice as primary and assisting surgeons while supervision is provided by a specialist surgeon and a senior veterinary

sister. Students take turns and will therefore be in both, the lead as well as assisting surgeon role. This set-up simultaneously provides practice opportunities for communication as well as team work skills. Additionally, students will be offered repeated OVH procedure practice on low-fidelity SimSpay simulators during the neuter clinic rotation.² Parts and manuals will be provided for self-assembly beforehand as described previously. Students also have free access to all part-task stations described above for the duration of the neuter clinic and are encouraged to practice these skills repeatedly.

The intense supervised one-day skills laboratory practice is hoped to increase students' basic surgical skills competence before performing their first neutering procedures on live patients.

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2. LANGEBAEK R, TOFT N, ERIKSEN T. (2015) The SimSpay-student perceptions of a low-cost build-it-yourself model for novice training of surgical skills in canine ovariohysterectomy. Journal of Veterinary Medical Education. 42(2):166-171.