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Exploring Students' Attitudes to Animals

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

(1) What is this study about?

As part of your ongoing studies in Veterinary Science, you are invited to take part in a research study exploring students' attitudes to animals as they progress through their Veterinary Science degree. You can be involved in this research by completing the following questionnaire. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

By giving your consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read.
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

You may print and keep a copy of this Participant Information Statement.

(2) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- [Professor Paull McGreevy, The University of Sydney](#)
- [Dr Chris Degeling, The University of Sydney](#)
- [Dr Jane Johnson, The University of Sydney](#)

This study is being funded by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching

(3) What will the study involve for me?

The questionnaire asks you to provide information about your background, career plans and attitudes towards animals. The primary purpose of the questionnaire is to enable you to track and reflect on the development of your attitudes to animals as you progress through your degree. As a

student you will be given the opportunity to complete the questionnaire in the first semester of each academic year and at the completion of the final year of your degree. In addition, we, the researchers, would like to use the questionnaire to compare the development of the Attitudes to Animals of all students as they progress through their degree.

The information collected in this questionnaire will not have any bearing on your academic results and the information you provide remains completely confidential. We have asked for your student number simply so that we can track your attitudes and preferences over time and to allow you to reflect on your own progress. No identifiable information about individuals will be released to any person, organisation or government authority. Only aggregate data will be reported and/or published.

(4) How much of my time will the study take?

The questionnaire should take about 15 minutes to complete.

(5) Who can take part in the study?

This study is open to all students enrolled in a Veterinary Science Degree at a university in Australia or New Zealand.

(6) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers, lecturers or anyone else at the University of Sydney or your University.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind later, you are free to withdraw at any time. If you wish to withdraw your consent please contact Paul McGreevy at paul.mcgreevy@sydney.edu.au or Vicky Tzioumis at vicky.tzioumis@sydney.edu.au

Submitting your completed questionnaire with a tick in the consent box provided is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. Up to the point at which we have analysed and published the results, you can withdraw your responses if you change your mind about having them included in the study.

(7) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?

Aside from the time taken to complete the questionnaire, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

(8) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?

We expect that using the questionnaire as a reflection tool throughout your degree will be of direct benefit, as it allows you to track the development of your views and attitudes towards animals. The research will potentially benefit future students as it will give the researchers a better understanding of the development of student views and attitudes, which we can use to scaffold future student learning.

(9) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise.

Your information will be stored securely and your identity/information will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

(10) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

(11) What if I would like further information about the study?

When you have read this information, Prof Paul McGreevy and Dr Vicky Tzioumis will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact Dr Vicky Tzioumis on vicky.tzioumis@sydney.edu.au

(12) Will I be told the results of the study?

As the primary objective of the questionnaire is to function as a reflection tool you will have access to your responses and will be able to compare your views as you progress through your degree. We will also provide you with comparative feedback to know where you sit in your cohort.

(13) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney [*INSERT protocol number once approval is obtained*]. As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

This information sheet is for you to keep