Murdoch University will use client simulations, a teaching tool for developing communication skills. Drama has been shown to be a useful tool in this context.

In human medicine, training in communication skills through visits to medical practices alone is an inadequate teaching tool, as students can only develop these skills through practical experience.

The need for improving generic or non-technical skills in veterinary graduates has been highlighted by a number of reports from professional bodies and regulatory agencies throughout the world. The key challenge for broader implementation is that these skills are often not taught in isolation, but rather as part of a broader curriculum.

The team at the University of Sydney will use awareness of non-personal judgment and individual achievements to future veterinary employers. To showcase evidence of their skills and thereby enhance their employability, electronic portfolios will be used for students to rehearse these skills.

A variety of clinical situations will help veterinary students to understand the dynamics of the human-animal bond and client expectations of veterinary care. A web-based human-animal bond questionnaire will assist in understanding the relationship between the strength of the human-animal bond and client expectations of veterinary care.

The team at the University of Queensland will use client simulations, an effective teaching tool that will assist students in developing communication and consultation skills and understanding the dynamics of the human-animal bond. A web-based client questionnaire will assist in understanding the relationship within the context of a clinical consultation. Firstly, a simulated client, will assist students in understanding the dynamics of the human-animal bond and client expectations of veterinary care. A web-based client questionnaire will assist in understanding the relationship within the context of a clinical consultation.

Drama has been shown to be a useful teaching tool for developing communication skills. In human medicine, it is recognized that training in communication skills through visits to medical practices alone is an inadequate teaching tool, as students can only develop these skills through practical experience.

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Key outcomes of this project are likely to best be achieved through teams of academics working with the profession to develop and apply these skills themselves, learn from other achievements to future veterinary employers.