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ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION AND PERCEPTIONS OF
FINDING VETERINARY MEDICINE STUDENTS TOWARDS ANIMAL WELFARE

THESIS

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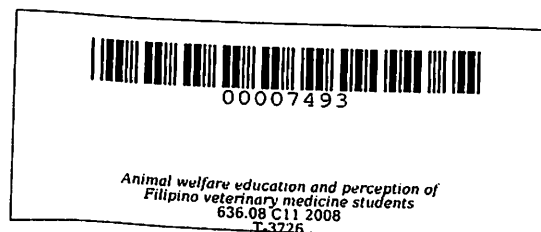
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**ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION AND PERCEPTIONS OF FILIPINO
VETERINARY MEDICINE STUDENTS TOWARDS ANIMAL WELFARE**

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ABSTRACT

CABALLERO, RAYMUND J. Animal Welfare Education and Perceptions of Filipino Veterinary Medicine Students Towards Animal Welfare. Undergraduate thesis. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Cavite State University, Indang Cavite, April 2008. Adviser: Dr. Alvin William A Alvarez.

This research investigated the animal welfare education and perceptions of veterinary medicine students towards animal welfare. Specifically, it aimed to identify the demographic profile of the veterinary medicine students in terms of age, gender, monthly family income, pet ownership and religion; to determine the perception of veterinary medicine students towards animals and their welfare in terms of animal confinement, animal health and management, animal handling, transport processing and production and surgical and experimental use of animals; to determine the significant relationship between demographic profile and perception of veterinary medicine students towards animals and their welfare in terms of animal confinement, animal health and management, animal handling, transport processing and production and surgical and experimental use of animals and to determine the difference in perception of veterinary medicine students towards animals and their welfare between those students who have taken up animal welfare subject or related subjects and those who are not in terms of animal confinement, animal health and management, animal handling, transport processing and production and surgical and experimental use of animals.

This research was conducted in schools within the Philippines that offers veterinary medicine course in December 2007 to February 2008. The respondents were veterinary medicine students that are currently enrolled on schools that offers veterinary medicine course within the Philippines. The researcher used Descriptive Correlation Design. There were 951 respondents in this study; eighty nine (89) students from Benguet State University, sixty four (64) students from Cagayan State University, sixty (60) students from Camarines Sur State Agricultural College, fifty five (55) students from Cavite State University, seventy (70) students from Central Luzon State University, seventy two (72) students from Central Mindanao University, eighty five (85) students from De La Salle Araneta University, forty-four (44) students from Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, seventy one (71) students from Visayas State University, fifty (50) students from Pampanga Agricultural College, forty-eight (48) students from Tarlac College of Agriculture, forty six (46) students from Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation, fifty (50) students from University of Eastern Philippines, seventy two (72) students from University of the Philippines Los Banos and sixty-eight (68) students from University of Southern Mindanao.

Simple Random Sampling by means of fishbowl technique was used. Slovincs' formula was used to arrive at the number of respondents. The researcher used a combination of Likert Scale (strongly disagree to strongly agree) to rank the concern of veterinary medicine students towards animal welfare issues. The questionnaire that is used in this study was adopted from the questionnaire of Dr. Camie R. Heleski et al. The

questionnaire that was used in this study was pre-tested and modified by the researcher to be applicable in this study.

The results of the study reveal that most of respondents were age 18 and 19 years. There were more males than females students that responded to the survey. Most respondents had Php 10,000 to 19,999 monthly incomes. Sixty nine percent (69%) of the respondents were pet owners. The demographic profile in terms of gender and pet ownership has a significant relationship with the perception towards animals and their welfare. In the aspect of the surgical and experimental use of animals, the perception of veterinary medicine students is influenced by the religion of the students. Christians had a high perception toward animals and their welfare. While on monthly family income, perception of veterinary medicine students is influenced in the aspect of animal handling, transport, processing and production. Also, it reveals that whether the students had taken up, not yet taken up, or currently enrolled to animal welfare subject or related courses, the results were the same. Hence, there is no significant relationship between those who have taken up/not yet taken up and currently enrolled students and perception of students towards animals and their welfare.

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ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION AND PERCEPTIONS OF FILIPINO VETERINARY MEDICINE STUDENTS TOWARDS ANIMAL WELFARE^{1/}

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INTRODUCTION

The animal's role in our lives is still undeniably important despite of the technological innovations that change our society's structure, organization and goals. They play a major role in the industry and consequently, in our economy, education and health. Whether we are directly, indirectly or not at all involved in the animal care and use, every one of us benefit from our relationship with them.

The animal-human bond is one of the factors influencing the perceptions of humans towards animal for food, experimentation and use (Selby and Rhoades, 1981; Brown, 1985). In western countries, particularly in the US, approximately one fourth of the state legislative introduced bills to stop the use of animals in education and several additional state and federal bills were introduced to restrict animal research (Rowan and Leow, 1995). Many Americans now belong into animal welfare groups and donated money to an animal protection organization (Jasper and Nelkin, 1992).