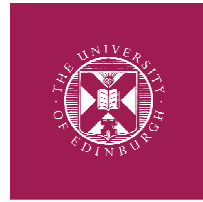


# THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES



## Validation and evaluation of a virtual slaughterhouse simulator for training and educating veterinary students

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### Background

An essential part of Veterinary Public Health (VPH) undergraduate training involves students undertaking placements within abattoirs. The goals of this project are twofold:

- To evaluate students' acceptance and potential use of the Virtual Slaughterhouse (VS) as a teaching tool.
- To validate the VS simulator to teach basic abattoir procedures at veterinary schools as part of the VPH course.

### Methods

Veterinary students engaged with two tasks on the prototype Virtual Slaughterhouse (VS) programme and then we evaluated the impact on their knowledge and behaviour when engaged with the same tasks in 'real-life' abattoir situation (figure 1). Task 1 was to be able to properly identify a bovine animal and Task 2 to determine if a bovine animal was eligible for BSE testing.

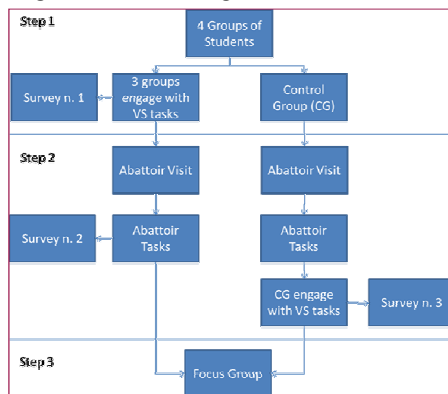


Fig. 1: Flow Diagram of methods and sources of data collection.

### Results

In all three surveys, students strongly agreed that the use of the simulator will be a useful teaching tool (Figure 2). There has been an improvement in students' correct answers after engaging with the VS, especially for task 2 (Table 1).

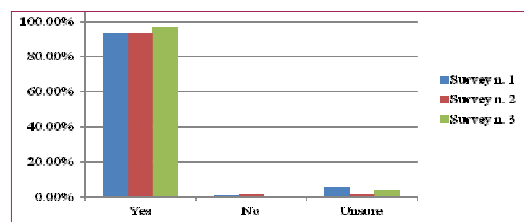


Fig. 2: Student responses to Survey n. 1, 2 and 3 to the question: "Do you think the VS can be a useful aid for teaching?"

### Frequency of correct answer (%)

	Survey n. 1 n=94	Survey n. 2 n=99
Task 1	28 (30.4%)	35 (35.3%)
Task 2	47 (51.1%)	86 (86.6%)

Table 2: Frequency of correct answers for tasks 1 and 2 comparing students' responses in Survey n. 1 (before abattoir visit) and Survey n. 2 (after abattoir visit).

### Conclusions

The preliminary results of this investigation show that there is the potential for the VS simulator to enhance the student learning experience in basic abattoir procedures. It also confirms that students are interested in new forms of teaching and learning and in particular the virtual simulator.

### Acknowledgements

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