palmarosa, indian melissa, thyme, thyme-thymol, thymelinalool, cinnamon leaf, clove, coriander seed oil and the antifungals econazole and miconazole were effective against all isolates. Neroli oil and the antifungal 5-flucytosine showed no activity.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This *in vitro* study identifies EO as possible candidates for alternative treatment of MP associated canine otitis externa, which is needed in times of resistances spreading among antimicrobial drugs.

A cross-sectional study on students' perception of the veterinary profession at a veterinary educational institution

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OBJECTIVES

The recent Vet Futures project found that only 59% of vets felt their work matched their expectations upon entering the profession. The objective of this study was to compare the differences in perception before, during and after veterinary university education.

METHODS

A paper-based questionnaire was developed for veterinary school applicants, pre-clinical students, final year students and recent graduates from the Royal Veterinary

College. Perception was defined using six parameters: working hours as practicing vet, average annual salary, time taken for pre-defined veterinary activities, amount of appeal for those activities, amount of reward for performing those activities, and the most important attribute of being a veterinary surgeon. All participation was on voluntary basis, and no incentives were provided.

RESULTS

Of the 489 responses, 456 met the inclusion criteria of completing all of the non-open ended questions. Veterinary school applicants had a highly inflated perception of the profession, finding most veterinary activities appealing and rewarding. Final year students believed in significantly longer working hours ($P < 0.01$) and lower pay ($P = 0.02$) than other groups. As they progressed through their veterinary education, a growing proportion of respondents believed Work-Life Balance to be the most important attribute of being a veterinary surgeon, whilst a decrease was observed in those who emphasised knowledge or clinical skills. No significant differences were observed according to gender, work experience, or companion animal ownership.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The study demonstrates the importance of highlighting a more realistic image of the veterinary profession to both the general public and veterinary students.

Attitudes towards rehoming animals – homing the less desirables

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OBJECTIVES

Background

The reasons behind potential adoptees (PA) choosing to rehome shelter dogs and cats remains undetermined in the UK. Despite this, euthanasia of shelter animals occurs

for particular health reasons; in cat's, retrovirus positivity is an important one.

OBJECTIVES

To determine the preferences of PA attending UK rehoming centres.

METHODS

A questionnaire was designed, piloted and refinements made, before distribution to UK rehoming centres and via social media to potential PA.

RESULTS

Of 3563 responses from PA, 88.4% had previously rescued an animal. The majority of PA (65%) did not consider age to be overly important, those that did (33%), preferred middle aged animals. Most of the participants (81%) were willing to take an animal in need of training (81%) or one lacking a limb, eye or ear (96%). A life-shortening illness

Oral presentations

(associated with a prognosis <6 months) would not deter 61% of PA. PA were also prepared to rehome retroviral positive cats: 53% were willing to rehome cats positive for FIV and 50% were willing to rehome cats positive for FeLV. Cost was significant, 82% of PA disclosed this impacted willingness to rehome chronically ill animals. Of the 39% that declined rehoming these animals, 65% would change their mind if the costs were covered.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Impact

This study provides insight into PA preferences visiting rehoming centres. The findings question which animals should be maintained vs. euthanased therein. These results could help influence the demographic of animals made available for rehoming.

Pain scoring by veterinary students using the Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale

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OBJECTIVES

The Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale (GCMPS) evaluates behaviour using a numerical scale and should allow an objective evaluation of levels of pain. In the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital(QVSH), veterinary students use the GCMPS to evaluate pain in hospitalised patients and determine whether analgesia should be modulated. How consistent are they at performing pain score exams, and does that vary as their level of experience improves?

METHODS

Canine patients were videoed undergoing pain assessment by an experienced clinician. Veterinary students

reviewed the videos GCMPS scoring the animals. Variations in score between students of different clinical years and with varying experience of pain scoring were compared.

RESULTS

Case	1	2	3	4
Original Clinician	6	2	5	8
4th Years	5.0±2.0	1.4±0.94	4.4±1.7	6.3±1.4
5th Years	5.6±1.4	1.8±1.3	4.4±0.9	6.5±1.1
6th Years	5.8±0.9	1.8±0.6	4.6±0.7	7.3±1.1
All Students	5.4±1.5	1.7±0.96	4.4±1.2	6.7±1.3
Prior experience	5.7±1.2	1.8±1.0	4.8±1.1	6.9±1.2
No prior experience	4.7±2.1	1.2±0.44	3.4±0.73	6.1±1.4

Mean±sd of pain scores for varying student groups. Students pain scores were lower than those of the clinician. More advanced students and those with previous experience scored pain higher than those without.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Students pain score lower than experienced clinicians suggesting that they need training in pain scoring.