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Humane Education Curriculum Encourages Concern in Animal Wellbeing and Increases Public Engagement with Local Shelters

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Humane education curriculum encourages concern in animal wellbeing and increases public engagement with local shelters.

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Abstract

The Idaho Humane Society previously had a Junior Vet Tech camp for 5th and 6th grade students, however it lacked discussion in animal behavior and body language, important topics in keeping animals and humans safe. We proposed a 2-hour workshop that includes discussion on body language, Fear Free[®] handling techniques, observations of animals in shelter, and opportunities to practice skills taught during the workshop. Dependent on the success of this workshop, we are prepared to design and launch a series of career related themes in collaboration with the Idaho Humane Society.

Methods

A Humane Education curriculum was created using foundational vet tech skills, handling techniques, and animal behavior. A power point utilizing both pictures, videos, and text was used to assist in the discussion. Life-size stuffed dogs and cats were used to perform and practice techniques on. Each student was provided a packet of information and 10 minutes were spent in the cattery observing the animal behavior previously discussed.

Results

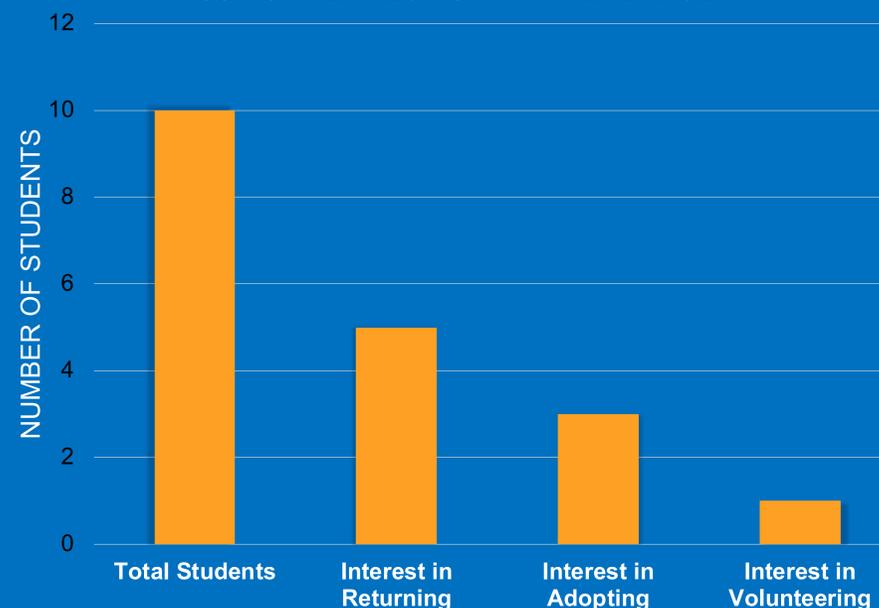
A total of 10 students attended the first Junior Vet Tech camp. All students were able to fully participate in practicing exam and handling techniques as well as in the cattery observations. 5 students communicated their want to attend another camp in the future; 3 discussed adopting animals from the shelter; and 1 further engaged in possible volunteer opportunities. 5-6 more workshops will be launched during the summer of 2022, with possible changes including increase in length and addition of dog observations.

Conclusion

A Junior Vet Tech workshop is beneficial to middle school students as not only exposure to the veterinarian technician career, but as an opportunity to educate students on Fear Free handling and animal behavior.



JUNIOR VET TECH CAMP ATTENDANCE



HUMANE EDUCATION

PRESENTER:

Hannah Hedelius

COLLABORATORS:

Dr. Shelly Volsche



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY