



Lead By Example

Promoting a Lifelong
Learner Mindset Using
Continuing Education in and
out of the Classroom

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Financial Disclosure

I have a direct or indirect relationship with VETgirl/BluePearl. Because of the nature of the relationship, it **will not** influence my presentation.

VETgirl





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Speaker has no relevant financial relationships or conflicts of interest to disclose.

Objectives

- **Identify** a variety of free, low-cost, and reasonably priced continuing education platforms that can be integrated into veterinary technician curricula to enhance student learning.
- **Develop** strategies for incorporating continuing education resources into classroom instruction to promote self-directed learning and professional growth among veterinary technician students.
- **Demonstrate** how the use of continuing education platforms can foster curiosity, engagement, and a commitment to lifelong learning in veterinary technician students, preparing them for ongoing success in the profession.

Veterinary Technician Oath

“I solemnly dedicate myself to aiding animals and society by providing excellent care and services for animals, by alleviating animal suffering, and by promoting public health. I accept my obligations to practice my profession conscientiously and with sensitivity, adhering to the profession’s Code of Ethics, and **furthering my knowledge and competence through a commitment to lifelong learning.**”

Why Lifelong Learning in Veterinary Technology Matters

The Evolving Nature of Veterinary Medicine

- Rapid changes in technology, techniques, and medications
- Importance of staying current to maintain competence and license

Bridging the Gap Between Education and Professional Development

- Helping students see CE as a natural and essential part of their career

Why Lifelong Learning in Veterinary Technology Matters

Barriers to Lifelong Learning for Students

- Perceived cost, accessibility, and relevance
- Educators can help reduce these through classroom integration
- Lack of knowledge of what is out there

Definitions

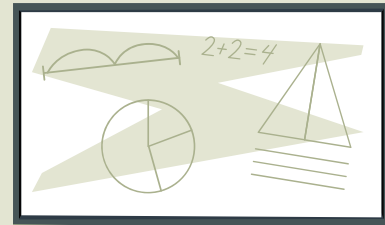
- Pedagogy
 - Teacher directed
- Andragogy
 - Student centered, self directed, teacher a facilitator
- Heutagogy
 - Self determinant learning, teacher resource or guide

Learning Transition

- Transition through the “gogies” with the goal of helping to create a self-determinant learner and a veterinary technician that will continue lifelong learning to promote better patient care.
- Focus will be on heutagogy and how we create the lifelong learner mindset in our classrooms to move students into self-determinant learners.



Overview of Continuing Education Platforms



Modalities of Learning

- “How to” Videos
- Print CE
- Webinar Lecture CE
- Full Course/Certificate CE

Free Options

- **IDEXX Learning Center:** Courses on diagnostic testing and laboratory medicine.
- **VETgirl CE Webinars:** Provides free subscriptions for student and faculty with content on small and large animal medicine, surgery, practice management, and more.
- **Elanco Online Learning:** Focuses on companion animal health, pain management, and disease prevention.
- **Zoetis Petcare Learning Center:** Provides on-demand CE courses focusing on clinical advancements, pain management, and infectious diseases.

Free Options

- **VetBloom Free CE Webinars:** Numerous free options and a pay subscription option.
- **YouTube:** Numerous channels and webinars dedicated to veterinary education.
- **Purina For Professionals:** Free online veterinary CE webinars focused on nutrition.
- **Merck Animal Health Vaccine CE Series:** Free online courses on vaccinology, immunology, and infectious disease prevention.

Free Options

- **VetMedTeam:** Offers a variety of free RACE-approved courses on topics like small animal medicine, diagnostics, and client communication.
- **MedVet:** Offers free virtual and pay on-demand CE.
- **NAVTA CE Portal:** Offers both free and low-cost RACE-approved courses specifically for veterinary technicians.
- **AAHA Learning:** Offers free on-demand webinars (certificate courses under \$100 for members).

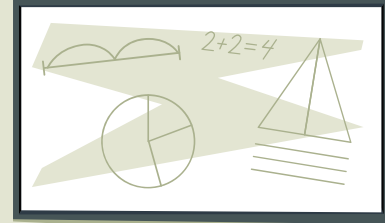
Free Options

- **Hill's Veterinary Academy:** Small animal nutrition.
- **Dechra Academy:** Focuses on topics like disease diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, and best practices.
- **Maddie's University:** RACE and non RACE. Animal Welfare, shelter medicine, OneHealth.
- **AVMA Axon:** Free webinars and low cost for non-members.

Institutional Supported/Licensed Options

- **AtDove:** RACE-approved with institutional memberships
- **VIN (Veterinary Information Network):** While membership has a cost, it grants access to hundreds of RACE-approved CE courses, case discussions, and webinars
- **Fear Free:**
- **Royal Canin Academy:** Small animal nutrition and the Pet Nutrition Advisory Program (PNA)

Integration of Continuing Education



Integration of Continuing Education in the Classroom

- Utilizing videos from online platforms that show different techniques and or procedures and the explanation of how they can do this outside the classroom in practice.
- Relate back to self determination

Integration of CE for Tutoring

- Students with gaps of knowledge and or skills can have resources from online platforms given to them for expansion of current knowledge and or gaps.

Integration of CE as Assignments

- Journaling/ CE reflection
- Presentations
 - Formal in the form of a presentation or informal with “coffee talks” about what everyone learned.
- Group discussions
 - Watch same CE and then discuss
- Low stakes quizzes and or written questions on the content
- Critical analysis of others videos
 - Must review and find information to either validate information, recognize information gaps or incorrect information. Essentially peer reviewing other’s work.

Integration of CE as Assignments

- Encourage students to use external CE content to support research or case presentations, reinforcing its real-world value.
- Incorporate CE into case studies or capstone projects.
- Incorporate CE into PBL- students create their own learning objectives. Use the CE as “pre” information or as a resource to solve the problem. Heutagogy!

Participation and Engagement

- Participate with the students! Model CE with use in your own teaching practice.
- Added value if instructor takes time to watch the same ones and creates leading questions for the students to help promote analysis of the content viewed, or create thought provoking questions the students should answer like “how does this apply to the students future endeavors.

Action Plan

- Audit curriculum for CE integration opportunities
- Identify 1-2 courses where CE content could complement lecture, labs or assignments (assign a webinar as a pre-class assignment). Start small and with something that is manageable for your time allotted in class, student time and on the back side.
- Remember students typically have to transition through the “gogies”. Day one you can’t go right to a PBL.
- Create a lesson plan that lays out what your learning objectives are then look at options to choose the resource that fits the activity/assignment the best.

Action Plan

- Build a shared class list of reputable CE sources (e.g., VETgirl, Vetfolio, NAVTA, VetMedTeam) and keep it updated for student access. If using CE sources that are not RACE approved, make sure to approve those first.
- Work with colleagues to integrate CE consistently across the program—creating a shared culture of lifelong learning.
- Share examples of CE courses you've completed and how they impact your teaching—demonstrating lifelong learning in action.

Key Takeaways

- Lifelong learning begins in the classroom
- Continuing education can be a teaching tool
- Student Curiosity = Professional Engagement
- Self-directed learning is a teachable skill
- Educators act as role models for growth
- A wide range of resources are available to support both you and your students throughout their learning journey

Questions?

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