Developing a student centred curriculum to empower Brooke veterinarian’s life-long learning

L. Skippen, T. Fussey, J. Harvey. J. Subirana

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The Brooke is an international animal welfare charity dedicated to improving working equid welfare in the world’s poorest communities.

The Brooke provides practical equine veterinary education to veterinarians working in low income countries where equine medicine and welfare are often not included in the veterinary degree syllabus.

The Brooke veterinary curriculum (BVC) was developed to provide a consistent approach to life-long learning and the training delivered by international senior training teams throughout the Brooke.

The overall aim of the curriculum is to motivate individuals and facilitate achievements in the five key competencies described in the Brooke Veterinary Competency framework; veterinary expert, life-long learner and teacher, animal welfare advocate, communicator and clinical governance professional.

The BVC is composed of the four areas seen on the diagram below

1. What is taught
   - The explicit curriculum or syllabus
   - Individualised for country context
   - Based around proficiency in the five Brooke Veterinary Competencies

2. How it is taught
   - Designed to encourage dual learner/teacher roles and self accountability
   - A self-reflective peer guided e-portfolio is used, including reflection on:
     - Trainings
     - Work Based Assessments
     - Real events

3. People involved
   - UK vet team
   - Senior training team in countries
   - Individuals in charge of their own learning

4. How it is assessed
   - Through work based assessment, performed in practice, assessed by senior training teams in country with a grading rubric based on the Brooke Veterinary Competencies.
   - Designed to assess that acquisition of skills and knowledge are translated into improvements in animal welfare.

Conclusions

- The BVC has been well-received by Senior Training Teams in country who have been keen for guidance when developing life-long learning in their own country contexts.
- The new e-portfolio system has been launched and the senior training teams are piloting it internationally.
- There has been great appreciation of a more reflective and student orientated approach to learning around the Brooke Veterinary Competencies, both from learners and senior management in country.

References