

# Low cost SimSpay - model for training of small animal ovariectomy and ovariohysterectomy

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## Organisation

**Name of the organisation** Ghent University (UGent)

**Department** Veterinary skillslab

**Country** Belgium

## SCOPE OF THE METHOD

<b>The Method relates to</b>	Animal health
<b>The Method is situated in</b>	Education and training
<b>Type of method</b>	Other

## DESCRIPTION

### Method keywords

veterinary medicine

skillslab training

SimSpay

ovariectomy

ovariohysterectomy

cat

Dog

## **Scientific area keywords**

Veterinary education  
clinical training  
Preclinical model

## **Method description**

In the skillslab, dummy models and simulators are used for teaching various clinical skills. Small animal ovariectomy and ovariohysterectomy are important and commonly performed procedures in small animal veterinary practice. An important part of this training process can be performed on a home-made model in the skillslab.

## **Lab equipment**

See attached publication and adapted instructions we have created for our students. The students make the model at home and bring it to the skillslab.

## **Method status**

History of use  
Published in peer reviewed journal

## **PROS, CONS & FUTURE POTENTIAL**

### **Advantages**

The use of educational animal models in a skillslab offers a number of significant advantages:

- Reduced use of laboratory animals and reduced discomfort for patients, as procedures can be practised on dummy models and simulators before performing them on a live animal.
- Teaching of clinical skills in a quiet and safe environment, reducing anxiety and stress for the veterinary student.
- Complex practical skills can be split into a number of small steps when practising them in the skillslab. When performing these elective surgical procedures, the model cannot be re-used. Therefore, a low-cost model made at home by the student works well in our skillslab as we work with a large number of students.

## Challenges

- Clinical training on live animals needed as well.
- Creating the model, although the instructions are quite clear, is quite time-consuming for inexperienced students. However, this process also helps them to repeat the anatomical knowledge they have obtained during earlier courses.

## Modifications

Further optimisation of home-made models and purchasing available commercial models.

## Future & Other applications

Training for lab animal surgical procedures.

## REFERENCES, ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

### References

Langebæk R, Toft N, Eriksen T. The SimSpay-Student Perceptions of a Low-Cost Build-It-Yourself Model for Novice Training of Surgical Skills in Canine Ovariohysterectomy. J Vet Med Educ. 2015 Summer;42(2):166-71. doi: 10.3138/jvme.1014-105. Epub 2015 May 7. PMID: 25862402.

### Associated documents

[20201027\\_112241.jpg](#)

[Instructions SimSpay maken.pdf](#)

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