下薗惠子 学校法人シモゾノ学園 理事長

Keiko SHIMOZONO Board Chairperson, Shimozono Gakuen

– International Animal Health & Management Colleges



[Slide 1] Good morning, everyone. My name is Keiko Shimozono, the Board Chairperson of Shimozono Gakuen. I'm honored and grateful to be here to speak to you today. My topic for presentation will address education and training for the veterinary nursing

profession at vocational training schools.

[Slide 2] I'd like first to show you two slides. These photos are, as you see, the scenes of animal-assisted therapy for elderly people. [Slide 3] The next slide also contains photos of animal-assisted therapy. I took the photos on the left when I visited a veterinary hospital in Hawaii to observe their activities. The photos on the right show a dog that was born without front legs. It was thought that the dog would not live long, yet it managed to grow up using only its hind legs. Now it serves to inspire people through its appearance. What I want to say here is that our students wish to work as veterinary nurses after they graduate and are working very hard with an excellent motive to become able to protect animals. I show them these photos with the hope that they will always remember the wonderful benefits animals can bring to us humans as they pursue their chosen profession to save and protect animals.

[Slide 4] I just received a newsletter from the Japanese Veterinary Nursing Association (JVNA), in which there was an article by Vice President Mitsuaki Ohta that says something similar. The article was accompanied by a summary of research results showing that people who take care of animals live longer and see a doctor less often than those who do not. It is said that the existence of animals is the most important thing in the lives of humans. I was very deeply inspired by this article and wanted to share it with you.

[Slide 6] Now, let me introduce you to our school. There

are two campuses: one in Setagaya, Tokyo and the other in Omiya, Saitama Prefecture. As a vocational school, we offer various courses to train students to become professionals in the handling of animals. These include not only veterinary nurses but also trimmers, zoo breeders, animal trainers, etc. At our Tokyo Campus, we also offer a course specializing in veterinary physical therapy.

Since the speakers in Part 1 have already shown us their slides that introduce what veterinary nursing is, I think I will skip my slides of similar content, [Slide 6, 7, 8]. But one thing I'd like to say about veterinary nursing is that the veterinary nursing profession, for which we train our students towards, is needed in various ways by the veterinary medicine industry. And it is certainly a challenging and rewarding profession.

Dr. Ikemoto gave a great presentation on advanced education for veterinary nursing. The fact that universities with veterinary courses are increasing in number will, I believe, promote the development of veterinary nursing. Meanwhile, I would like to talk about the characteristics of education at vocational schools and reconfirm their role.

[Slide 9] In my understanding, universities are educational institutions that conduct academic research and where the emphasis is on the acquisition of broad knowledge and research. On the other hand, vocational schools are training institutions tp provide specialist knowledge and practical skills, ultimately creating work-ready professionals.

[Slide 10] These are the qualities that an ideal graduate from Shimozono Gakuen is expected to demonstrate. Those written in blue at the top are specialist capabilities necessary for animal nurses. Those in red are capabilities necessary for animal professionals, and

those in green are capabilities required for working adults. These three capability categories are very important, but recently I have heard from many of the employers hiring our graduates that they also expect graduates to have good interpersonal and communication skills. They need these skills so that they can speak in front of people without fear as well as being able to show both courtesy and excellent manners when dealing with customers.

In order to equip our students with specialist capabilities, we must provide them with good quality training. We also need to teach them nursing skills that can accommodate more advanced veterinary medicine. I think those written in red are the most important capabilities for veterinary professionals and we need to reinforce our educational programs to develop them. As has already been discussed, it is necessary to fully understand the importance of animal welfare - one of the topics for today's meeting - and to promote it through our own behavior. [Slide 11] This is written in the same article (mentioned above) by Dr. Ohta. The article says that it is "important to understand and promote the study of human animal relations". Reading these words convinced me that the direction in which our school is heading is the right one. Naturally, the specialist knowledge and skills we teach will be an important basis for building the relationship with animals. [Slide 12] Now let me introduce you the curriculum in our Veterinary Nursing Course, including liberal arts subjects. One of the accreditation criteria for a vocational school is to provide more than 800 hours of vocational education and training, which we offer through two-year courses.

[Slide 13] But is it enough for animal professionals, including veterinary nurses, to acquire such knowledge and skills? It is, of course, important and absolutely necessary, but I think more is required of veterinary nurses. [Slide 14] A nurse should be a person who can feel the silent message or call for help from an animal. They need to not only acquire knowledge but also cultivate an ability that is more akin to a special sensibility. So how can they cultivate such ability? [Slide 15] Firstly, I think students can learn a great deal by

coming into contact with animals as much as possible. These are part of our curriculum.

Currently, the number of elderly dogs is increasing and many animal hospitals are now offering beauty services. [Slide 16] There are many animal hospitals operated with good management looking for veterinary nurses with trimming skills. At our own school we have also been offering practical training for beauty service skills since we started. We did this because we thought that beauty services training, which can require a student to work with a single dog for at least three hours a day would allow them to learn directly from the animal. This is very important besides acquiring medical skills.

The essential qualities a veterinary nurse needs include a rich knowledge and practical skills. However, the most important quality needed is a 'warm compassion for animals', [Slide 17]. Nurses should have a great love and compassion for animals and at the same time deepen their awareness of various signs, catch an animal's signals, and notice any slight changes in the animal. These are very important qualities for veterinary nurses. [slide 17]

To conclude my presentation, I'd like to show you another photo, [Slide 18]. The dog on the right was my daughter's dog. She loved this dog very much, as much as any member of the family. But we went through a heartbreaking farewell last year when the dog passed away. However, she received very considerate treatment before she died. The veterinarian administered treatment with consideration and the veterinary nurses were compassionate in caring for her. After she died, they gave her a good brushing and put a ribbon on her. I think these are the types of sensitivity that are expected of veterinary professionals.

So, we intend to continue our efforts to train students to become nurses possessing such sensitivities and to offer an education and training that can answer the needs of the society in general, as well as the field of veterinary medicine. Although there are still issues we need to deal with, including the unification of certification standards and training curricula, we hope

to connect and work together with all the related parties to move ahead towards a desirable future. I would be grateful for your continued support and guidance. Thank you for listening to my presentation, [Slide 19].





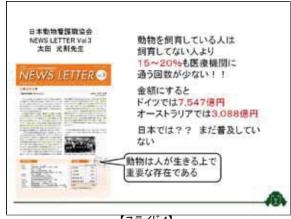
【スライド 1】



【スライド 2】



【スライド 3】



【スライド 4】



【スライド 5】



【スライド 6】



【スライド 7】



【スライド8】



【スライド 9】



【スライド 10】



【スライド 11】

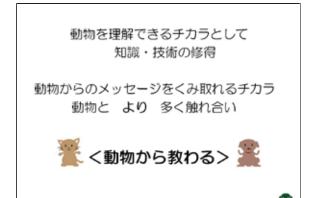




【スライド 12】



【スライド 15】



【スライド 13】

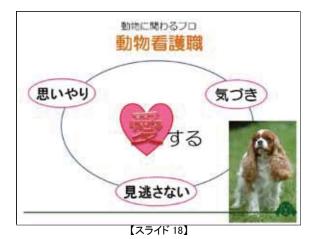


【スライド 16】









Workshop V Animal Care — Role of Animal Hospitals and Nurses



【スライド 19】

