

Dissection Workshop at the Royal Veterinary College

As informative as anatomy atlases can be, there is nothing more educating and practical than actually participating in a dissection workshop, just like the one organised by our Training Officer Emma Kelson, on the 4th July 2014 at the [Royal Veterinary College](#).

Over 30 students and teachers attended the workshop, where they worked in the groups of four to reinforce their knowledge of anatomy by dissecting a canine hind limb and a whole rabbit. The aim was to help teachers use dissection as an effective teaching tool. Several teachers and lecturers attended who were interested in setting up dissections at school and University and wanted to find out more information. In addition we had a number of anatomy students who wanted to attend the workshop to help with their studies.

Workshop participants appreciated this rare opportunity using dissection material from the existing RVC teaching supply. Animals were not put down specifically for the purpose of the dissection.

The workshop was led by Mr Andrew Crook, the head of Anatomy Service, as well as, several demonstrators who were very knowledgeable and were able to support the students whenever they needed help.

For many of the participants this was their very first dissection, therefore they were very pleased with the chance to improve their previous theoretical knowledge of anatomy in a practical, “hands on” way. The workshop enhanced such essential anatomy skills, as proper handling of instruments in a safe way and the health and safety regulations while performing the dissection.

By the end of the workshop the participants were able to distinguish between muscles, tendons, ligaments, cartilage, nerves, arteries and veins, identify the different structures in the abdomen and thorax, and their relationships to one another, as well as, get a better grasp of the anatomical vocabulary.

Royal Veterinary College kindly allowed the workshop attendees to visit the on-campus museum of anatomical specimens, further broadening their knowledge of anatomy and its techniques.

The workshop was very well received, with the overall satisfaction rate of 100%. Teachers who participated found the whole animal dissections very informative and will try to incorporate in their teaching.

Find out about upcoming training events on the Society of Biology [website](#).