

# Art for Anatomy

Can observational drawing practise increase anatomical knowledge and observation skills in preclinical veterinary students?

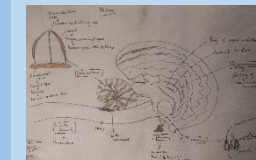
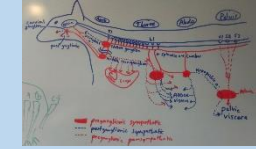
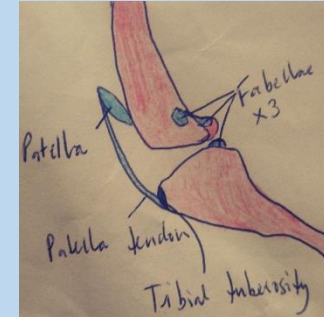
Rosie MacDiarmid\* and Fay Penrose

## Background

**Visual literacy** is a key skill in the clinical professions – observation of behaviours and the ability to recognise normal and abnormal structures is used every day in veterinary practice.

An accessible way to develop visual literacy skills in the novice learner is through the creation of observational drawings

There may also be additional benefits - previous studies have demonstrated an improved feeling of wellbeing following participation in creative projects



## Did it work?

Some students attended several sessions, others dropped in just once or twice

Attendance numbers per session were relatively low (<10) but informal feedback was positive

Students said they found it interesting and relaxing

## The project so far

A preliminary series of voluntary observational drawing workshops for preclinical students was held in early 2018

This enabled us to determine whether there was an interest in this area and to look at ways of developing this into an educational study for evaluation, with the longer term aims of:

- ✂ Developing observational skills
- ✂ Improving anatomical knowledge
- ✂ Contributing to student wellbeing



Live animals and preserved specimens were used and we noted that students used the sessions in different ways:

- ✂ Learning
- ✂ Revision
- ✂ Drawing technique
- ✂ Relaxation and chat!



## What next?

Second series of workshops starting in Semester 1, Autumn 2018

Pre and post attendance surveys to help quantify any perceived wellbeing benefits

Online anatomy quizzes, offered to all students, to assess whether attendance at art classes improves anatomical knowledge