

# Navigating a complex landscape – Infection prevention and control through a veterinary lens

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# Disclosures

I have no disclosures

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# Why is IPC important?



## **Nosocomial feline calicivirus-associated virulent systemic disease in a veterinary emergency and critical care unit in France**

*Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*  
*Open Reports*

1–9

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[jmsopenreports.com](http://jmsopenreports.com)



**Jack-Yves Deschamps, Emmanuel Topie and Françoise Roux**

In this outbreak, the investigation led to the conclusion that all infections took place at the hands of the veterinary students who cared for the cats: every newly infected cat was cared for by a student who was caring for a sick cat at the same time. Viral contamination of

# Three Queensland vets face prosecution over how they managed Hendra cases



By Kallee Buchanan

QLD Country Hour

Agriculture

Fri 25 Sep 2015

Work Safe  
VICTORIA



WH&S Requirement

Buchanan (2015)  
ABC News  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-25/vets-prosecuted-over-hendra-cases/6801422> 6

# Latest on avian influenza



**Veterinary Practitioners Board**  
of New South Wales

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## Avian Influenza: Guide for veterinary practices

### Supporting Australia's avian influenza

On 14 October 2024, the Australian Government announced a package to protect the nation against the threat of the HPAI H5N1 strain to Australian agriculture.

The package aims to strengthen surveillance, preparedness and response for avian influenza in Australia and its territories.



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[Bird Flu: Must-Knows For Backyard Chicken Keepers \(And Breeders\)](#)

# Bird Flu: Must-Knows For Backyard Chicken Keepers (And Breeders)

30 August 2024

## Enhancing Poultry Performance

avian and veterinary practices

ected in a small number of domestic birds in NSW, it can cause severe disease and mortalities in poultry, particularly in layer flocks.

As a result, they can contract and potentially spread HPAI. Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* to mitigate the risk of HPAI spread, the following measures should be implemented:

How the risk of HPAI spread may be minimised by implementing the following measures:

employed by veterinary clinics:

Search

# Australasian Veterinary Boards Council - 2024

## - recent revision Day One Competencies

### Domain 4: Veterinary Public health

22

Develop, evaluate, recommend, and practise protocols for biosecurity, biosafety and infection prevention and control (IPC).

The new graduate should be able to apply isolation, disinfection and disease management strategies to prevent disease transmission between animals, humans or self

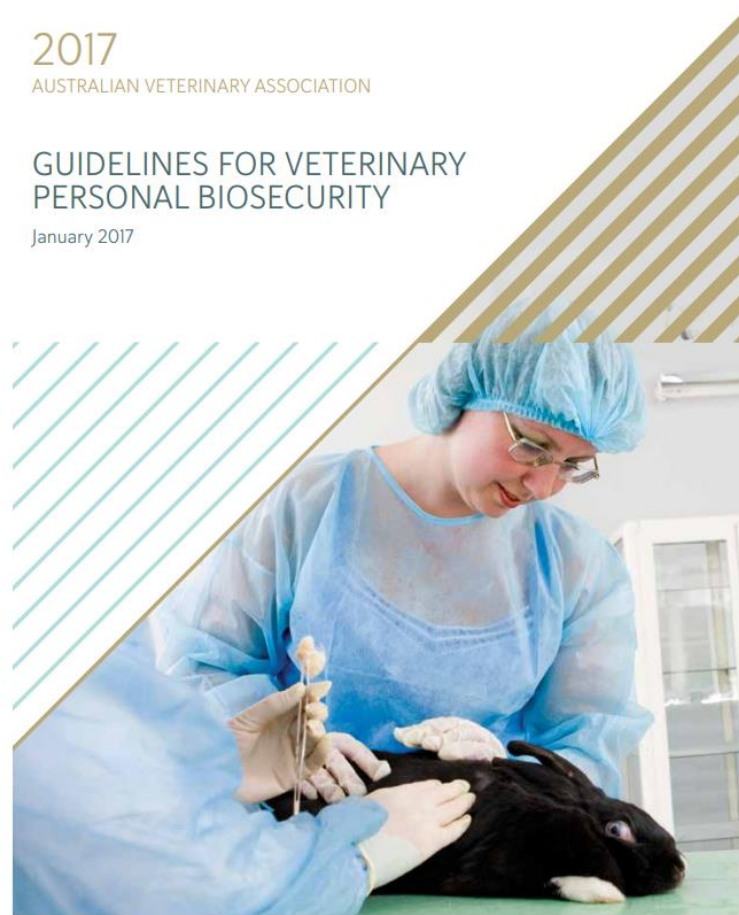
Source: [AVBC-Day-One-Competencies\\_Final\\_2024-v1-Jan-24.pdf](#)

# AVA Guidelines for Veterinary Personal Biosecurity

2017  
AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

GUIDELINES FOR VETERINARY  
PERSONAL BIOSECURITY

January 2017

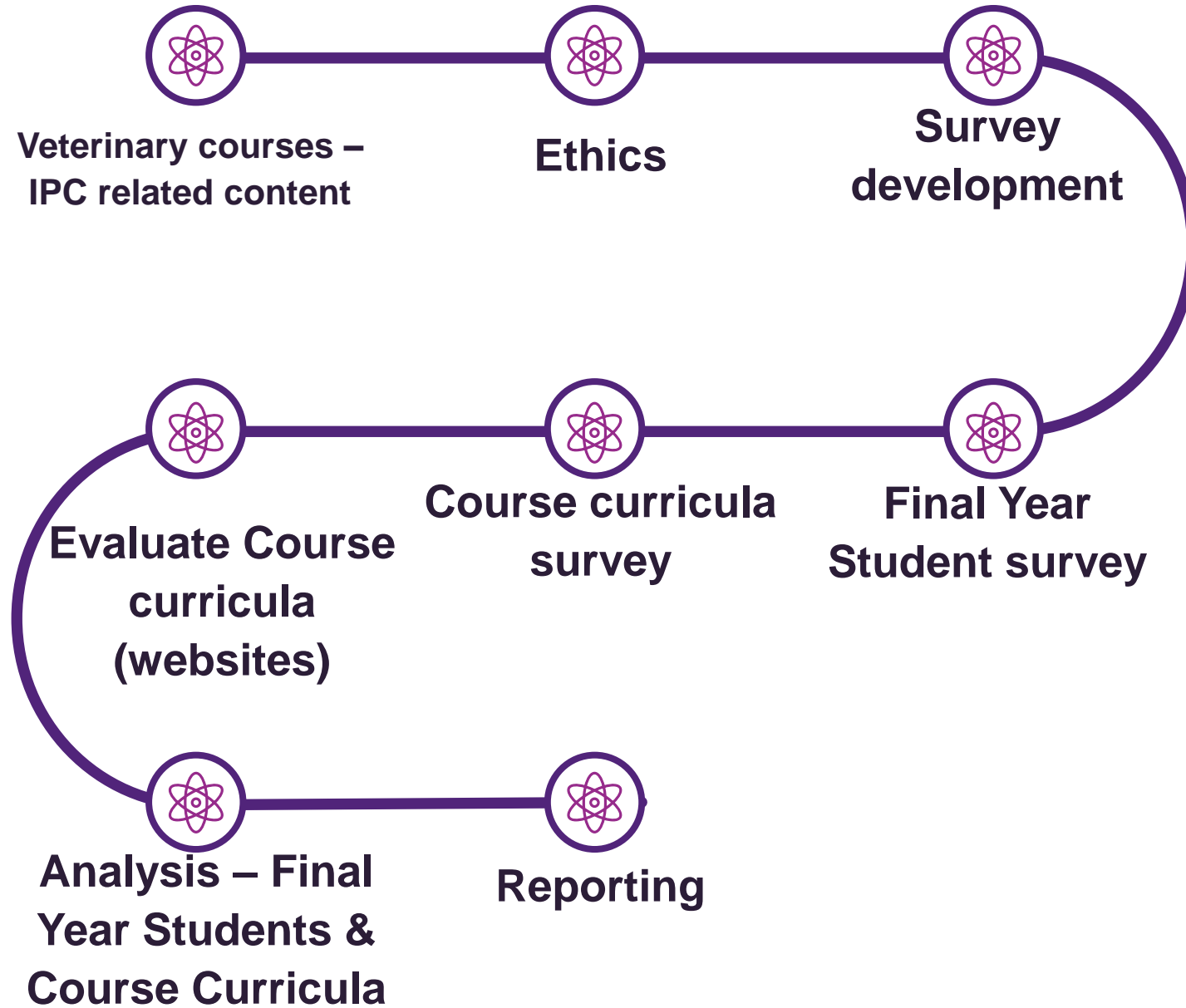


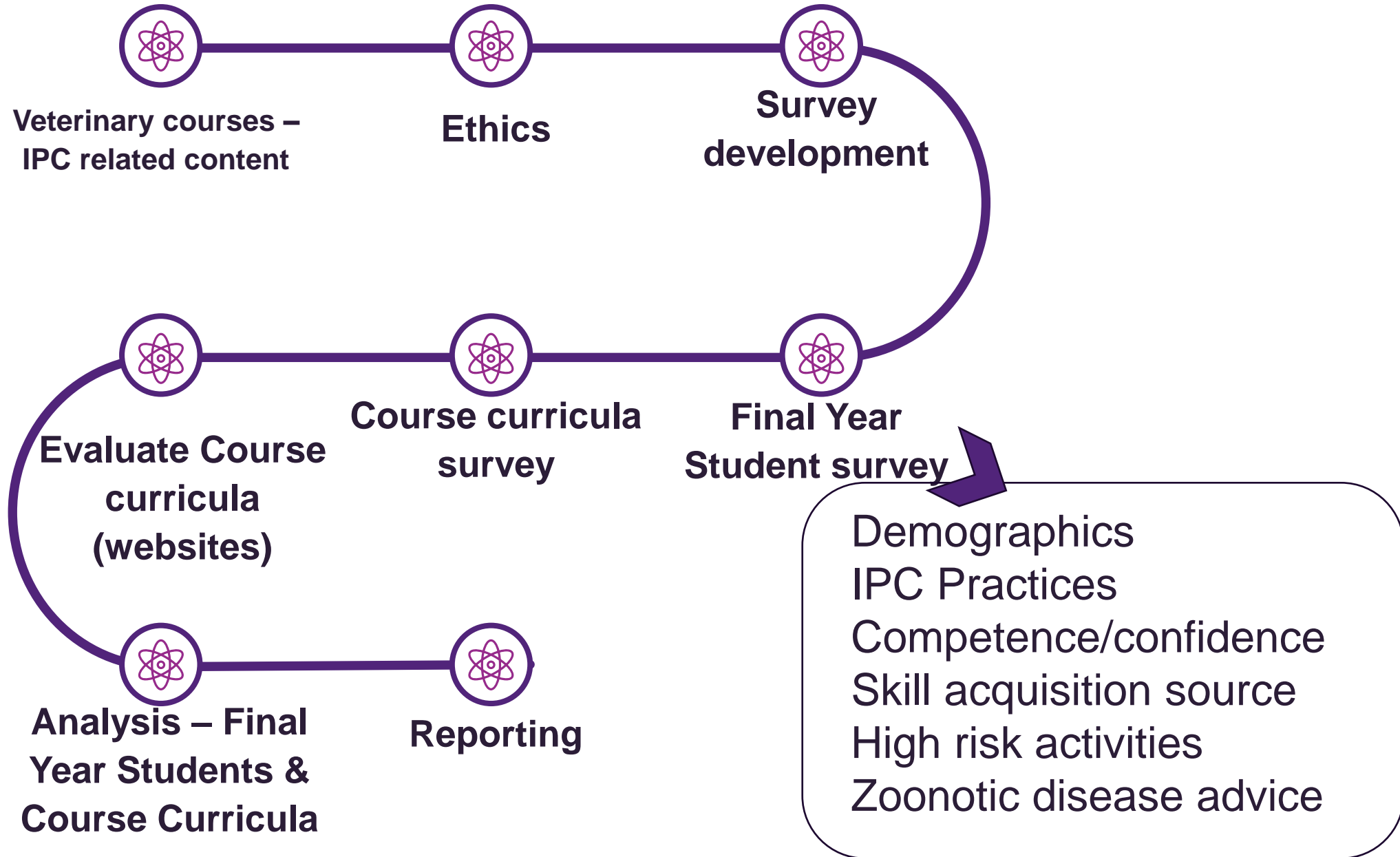
Source [AVA-2017-Guidelines-for-veterinary-personal-biosecurity.pdf \(nabsnet.com.au\)](https://nabsnet.com.au/AVA-2017-Guidelines-for-veterinary-personal-biosecurity.pdf)

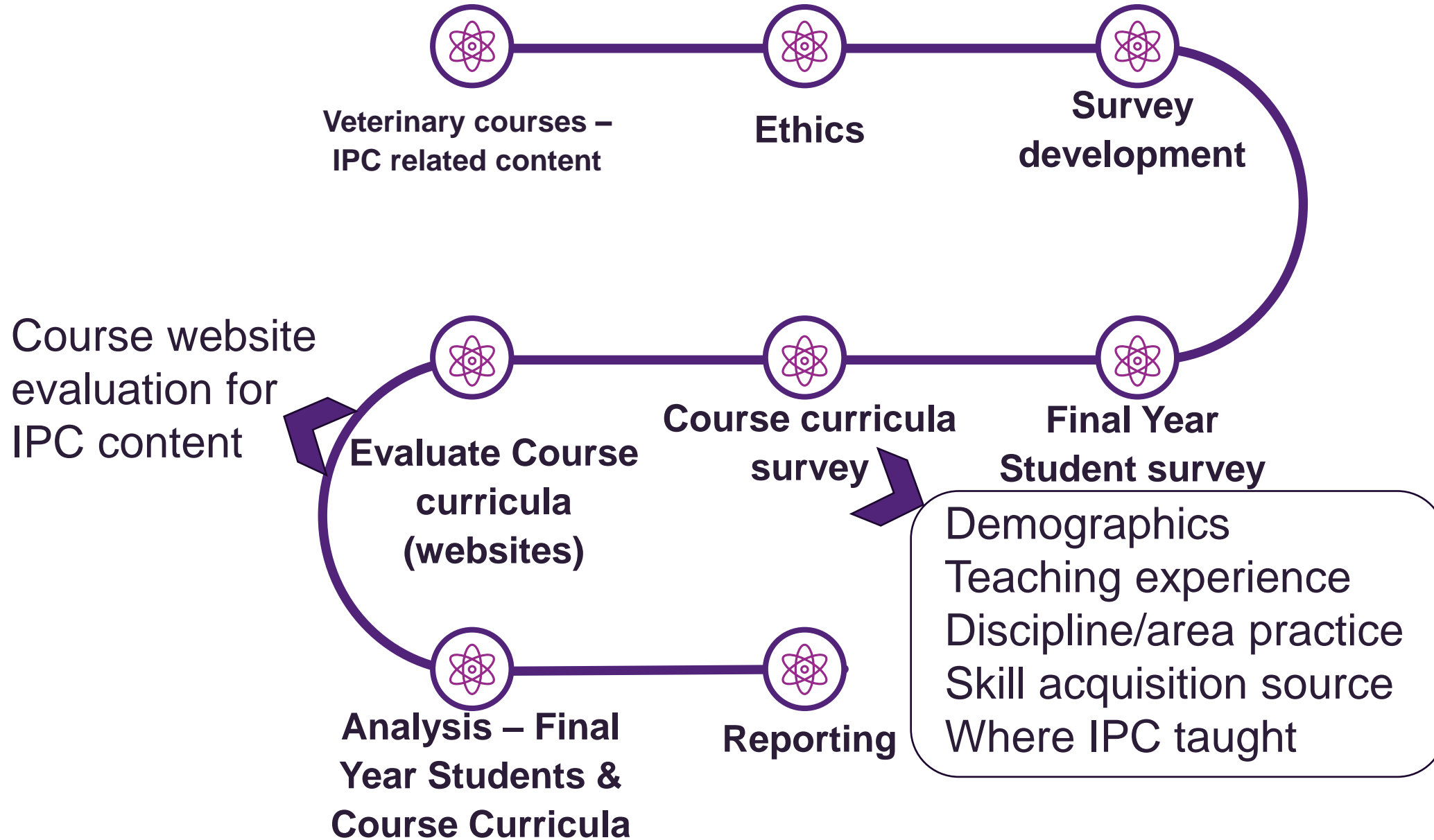
# Objectives

1. Where and how veterinary science/technician students learn about IPC principles
2. How these IPC principles are applied
3. How students are assessed to practice competently in the workplace.

# Methods

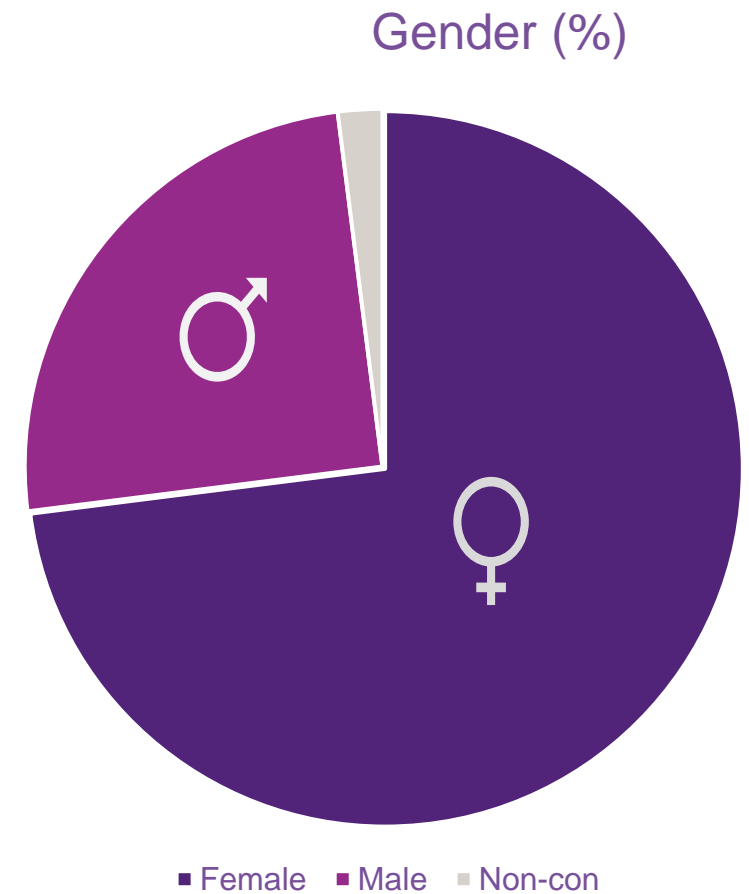






# Results

# Respondents



# Student knowledge responses

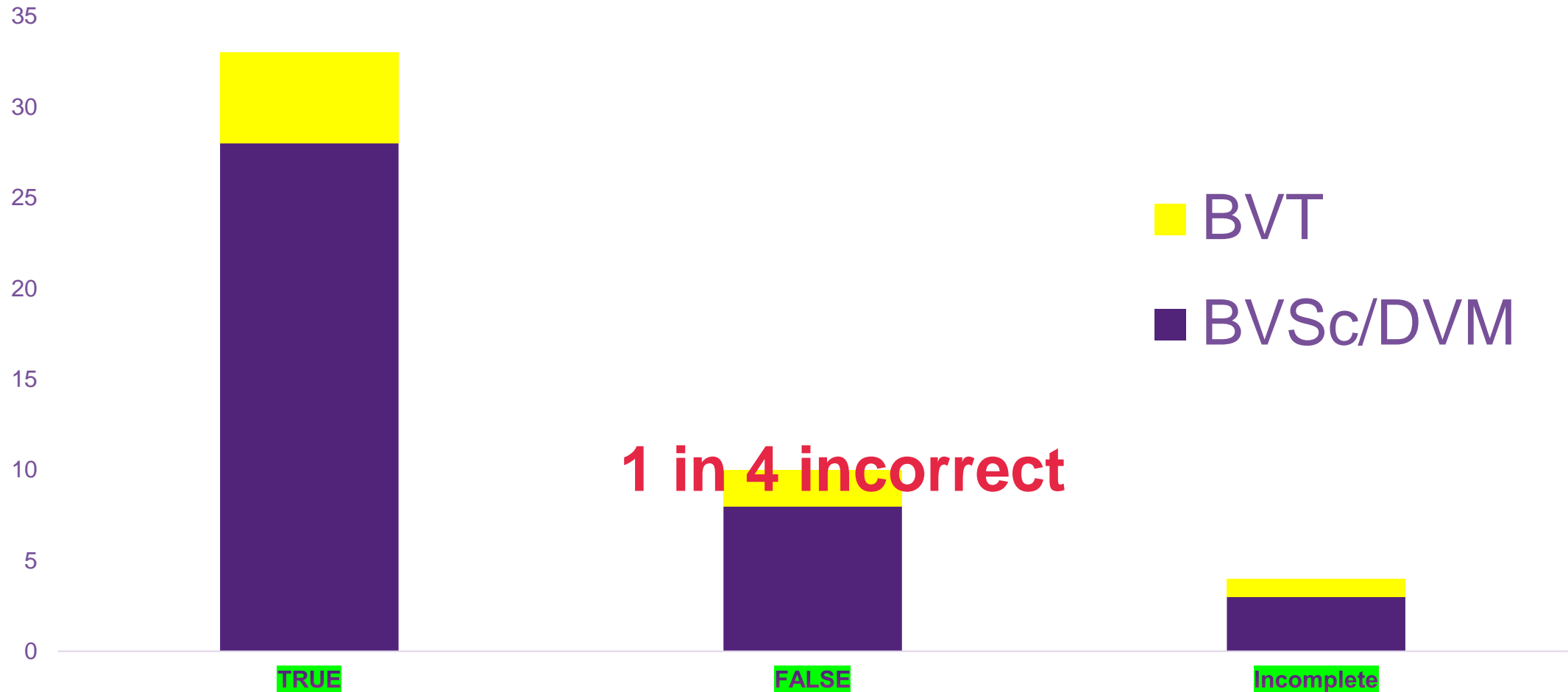
## Received instruction: When to perform Hand Hygiene



**Confidence with HH?**

**84%**

# Use of Alcohol-based hand rub when hands visibly clean?



# Temperature, pulse and respiration observations on inpatients, WHEN should hand hygiene be performed?

Immediately before opening the cage door

67%

Moment 1

Only at beginning of shift

0

Incorrect

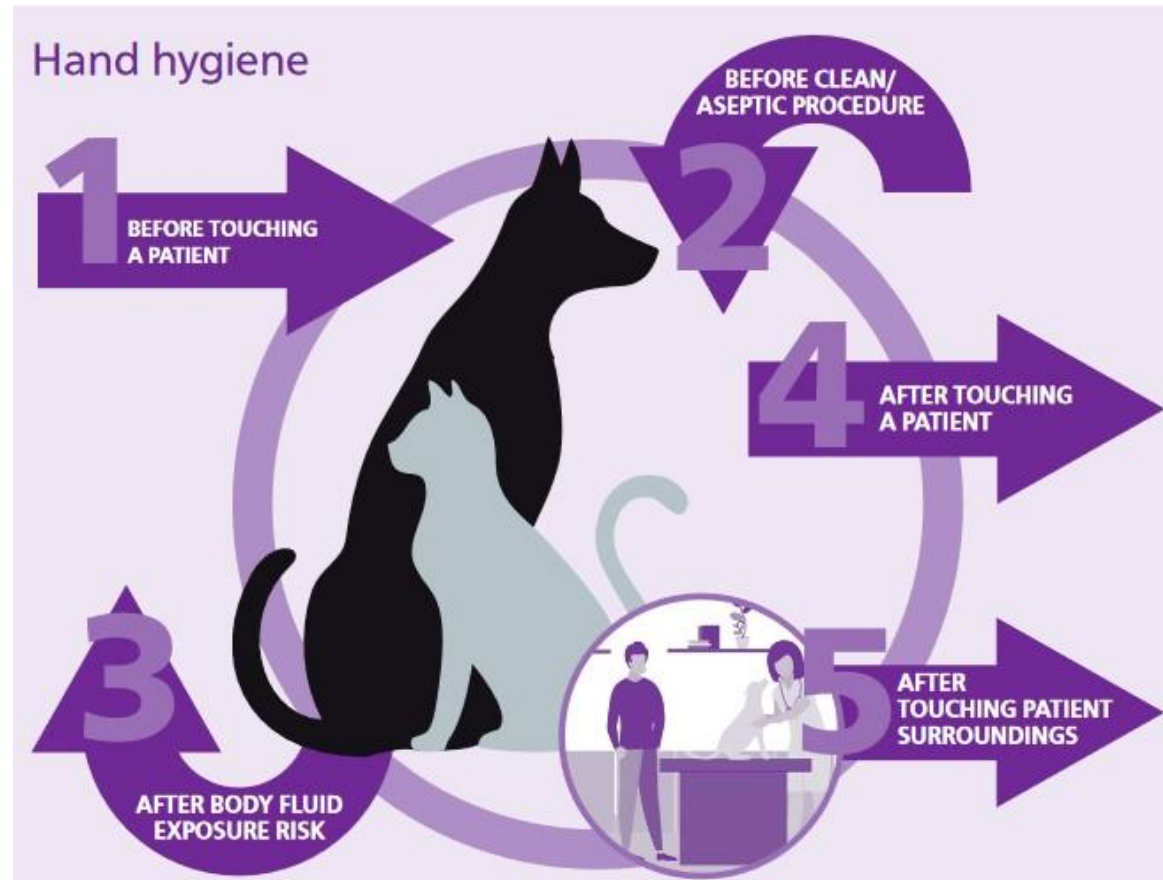


Image: Parkes (2021)

After/before touching a patient

In between handling patients

91%

Moments 1 and 4

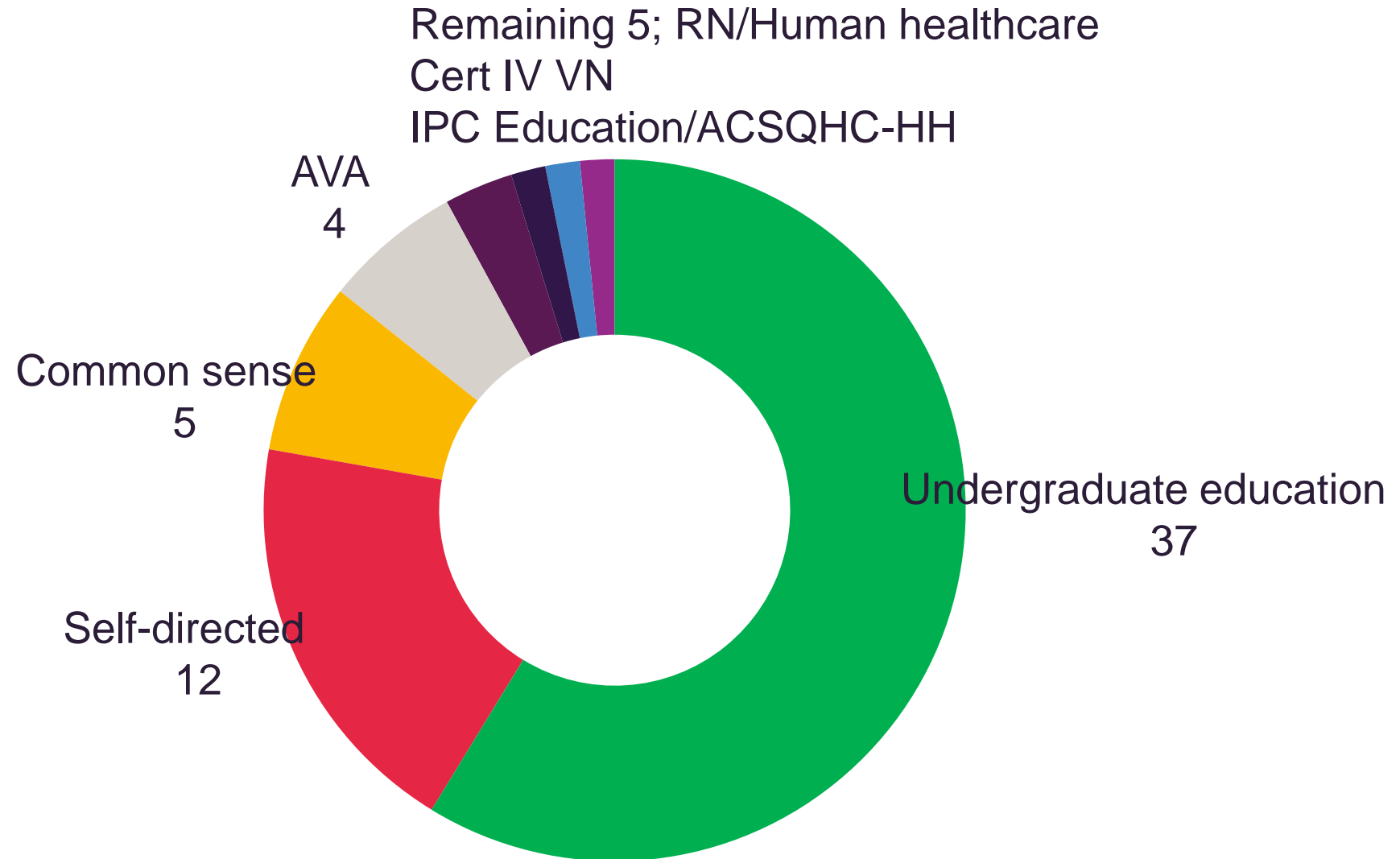
Immediately after closing the cage door

(Leaving patient zone)

74%

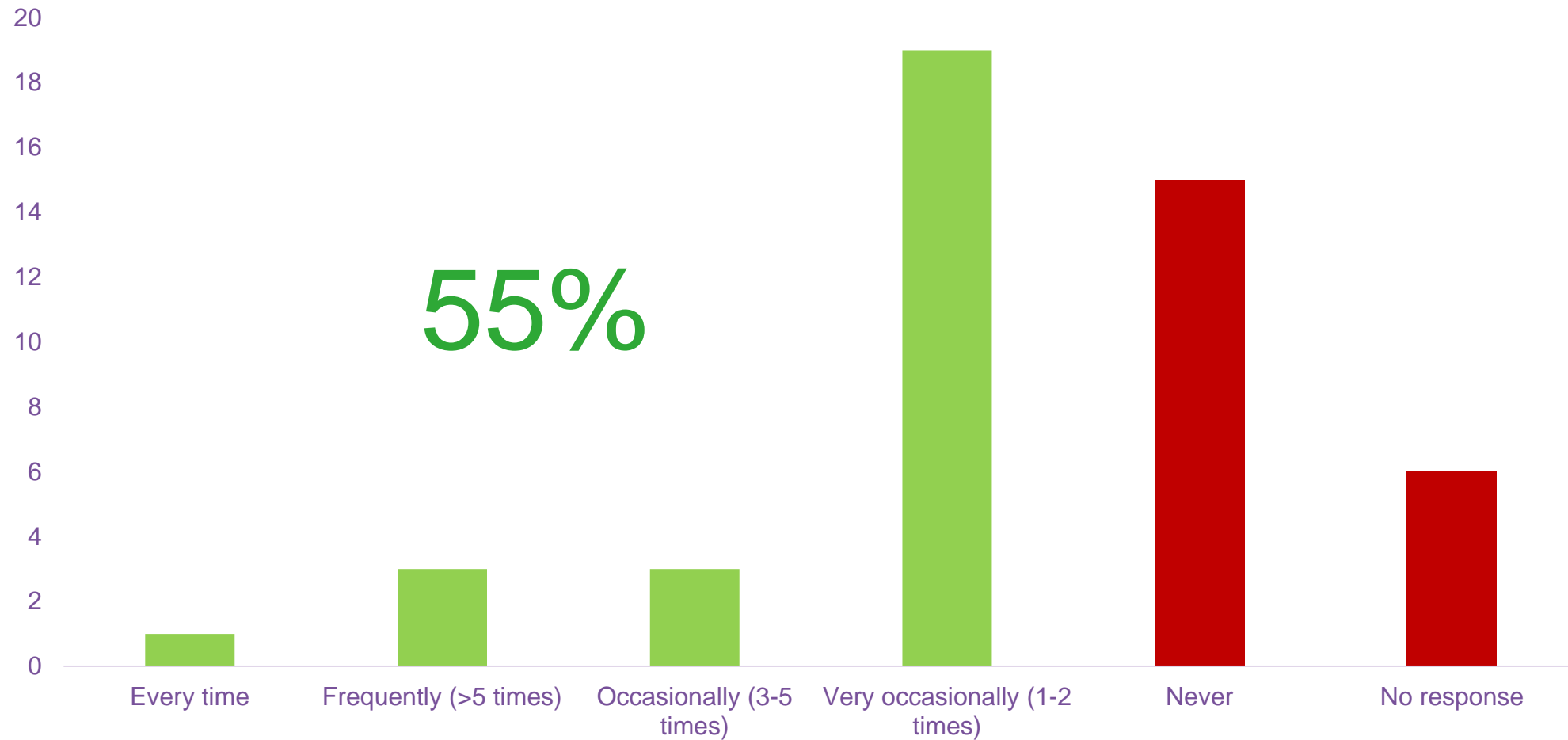
Moment 5

# Where students learnt about hand hygiene



# Zoonotic Disease advice to clients

# Owner advice – zoonotic disease prevention



# IPC in the ANZ curriculum

- where
- who
- training

# Where is IPC taught in curricula

DISINFECTION TECHNIQUES      SURGICAL ASEPSIS  
5TH-OHS      PRAC-GOWNING  
1ST-INTRO BIOSECURITYHYG      PPE PRACTICAL  
PRAC-HAND WASHING-FLUORO      MICRO-CREDENTIAL DPI  
INTROPUBLIC HEALTH      1ST-ANIMAL HANDLING  
1ST-INTRO ANATOMY      PATHOLOGY  
1ST-INTRO VETSCIENCE      SURGERY  
IPC LECTURE      DECON STATION SETUP  
3RD - ZOOZOSES  
3RD-INTRO SURGERY  
3RD-PRACTICALS  
REF TO SHARPS MX

# Where instructors gained knowledge from to teach IPC and AMS

BVSC  
DEPT AG-QUARANTINE GRAD CERT PUBHLTH  
SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING DONT KNOW  
INFECTION CONTROL OFFICER VARIOUS COURSES  
INFECTIOUSCONTROL PROGRAM PHD  
PRIMARY RESEARCH

Who?

*IPC instructors*

**MICROBIOLOGY**

**ONE HEALTH  
PHARMACOLOGY**

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**SURGERY**

*AMS instructors*

**PUBLIC HEALTH  
MICROBIOLOGY**

**MEDICINE**

**PHARMACOLOGY**

# Discussion

# Key summary

- Fragmented knowledge
- Coverage in micro-courses
- Most people self-taught
- Unclear how day 1 competencies assessed



# Recommendations

## Curricula

- **Dedicated IPC training**
- **Start in Semester 1**
- **Coordinated and consistent approach (AVBC/AVA/Universities) expectations/minimum requirements**

IPC Accreditation  
Veterinary  
schools

- **Support veterinary clinics/organisations who provide practical experience**
- **Work with other experts in Academia e.g. Public health**
- **Clarify role for zoonotic disease advice**

Veterinary  
Foundations of  
Infection Prevention  
and Control





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