

Evaluation of a Dental Model for Training Veterinary and Veterinary Nursing Students

Guidance notes for tutors – facilitating a training session

Equipment and materials required

Dental machine incorporating a power driven dental scaler and polishing unit

Latex and powder free examination gloves (various sizes)

Full length disposable aprons

Facemask

Deep plastic cat litter tray

Cooling rack

Skills sheets

Skills sheets

A number of skills sheets have been devised to provide students with step-by-step instruction on how to set up a dental machine and how to perform a descale and polish. The sheets consist of text supplemented where necessary with photographs or images and are available to download via the links below:

[Parts of a dental machine \(specific to the Cocoon Hygienist dental machine\)](#)

[Machine set up and maintenance](#)

[Dental descale](#)

[Dental polish](#)

Video training

The following video clips have been developed to accompany the skills sheets and contain a verbal explanation of the procedure:

1. [How to set up, correctly use and care for a dental machine as well as providing an overview of safety considerations.](#)
2. [How to descale teeth using an ultrasonic scaler](#)
3. [How to polish teeth using a mechanical polisher.](#)

Room layout

For demonstration purposes, a table should be positioned in the centre of the room allowing space for students to observe nearby. A protective, waterproof sheet should be placed over the table to enable easy surface cleaning. An empty cat litter tray should be placed on one side of the table with a cooling rack on top. The dental machine should be positioned near the same side of the table. Positioning of these items should take into account whether the student is left or right handed. The model should then be positioned on the centre of the cooling rack. Accompanying skills sheets (placed in waterproof plastic pockets) should be available at the other end of the table. The dental machine should be positioned next to the table and must be within easy reach of an electrical outlet. In order to ensure an effective ergonomic working environment, a stool of an appropriate height should also be supplied.

Following the initial demonstration, the table can be positioned against a wall with a waterproof sheet protecting the wall and table (refer to figure 1).



Figure 1:

An example layout of the dental model and machine positioned against a wall following an initial tutor demonstration of the skills to be learnt. The model and machine are positioned towards the right hand side of the table and the skills sheets are positioned to the left. Such arrangement would be more appropriate for a right handed student.



Figure 2:

Damage to the model as a result of poor operator technique and incorrect use of instrumentation.

**Rachel H Lumbis, Susan P Gregory, Sarah Baillie (correspondence to rlumbis@rvc.ac.uk)
Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hertfordshire AL9 7TA**

Running a training session

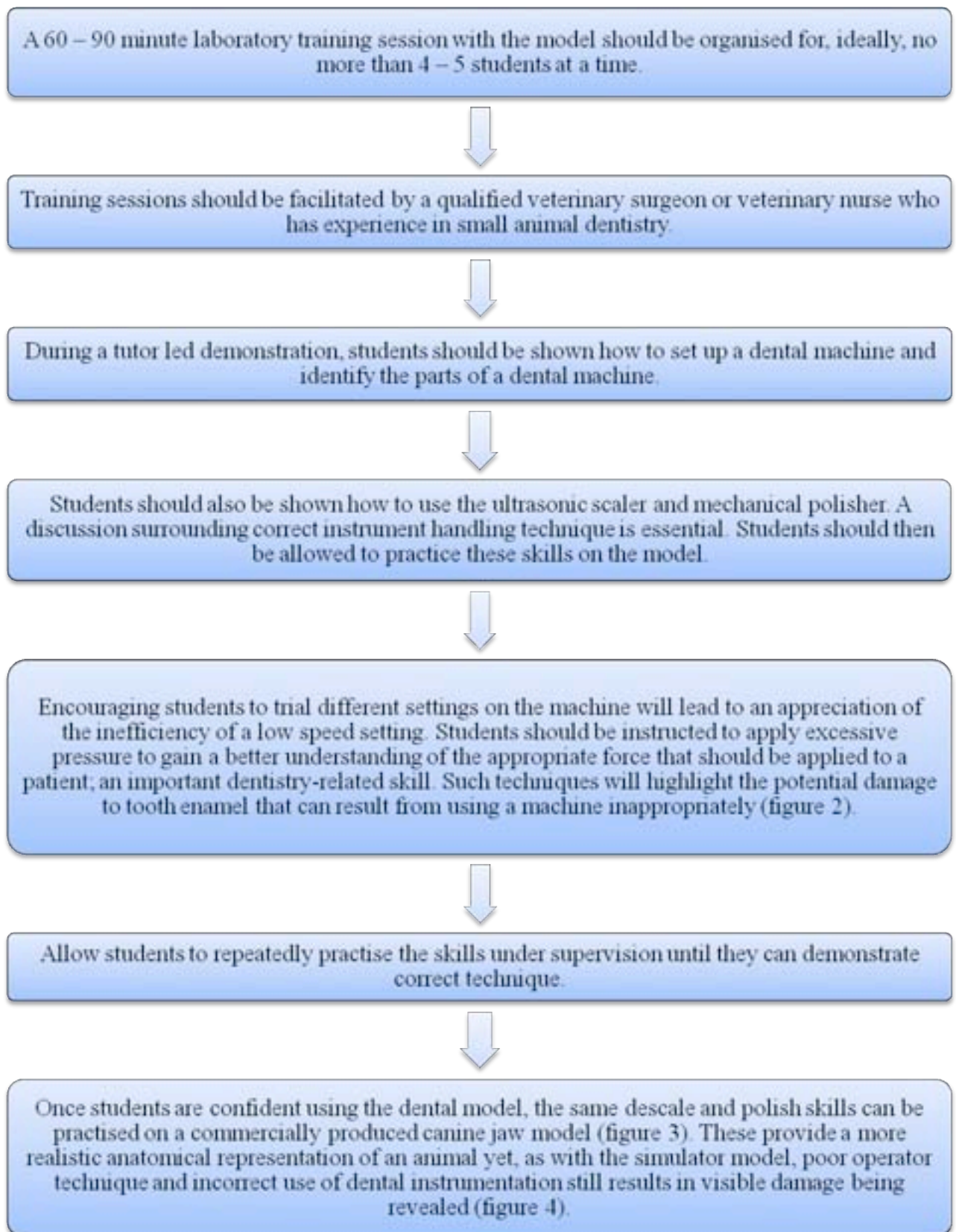




Figure 3:
Practising the descale and polish technique on a commercially produced canine jaw model sourced from [Veterinary Instrumentation](#).



Figure 4:
Damage sustained to a commercially produced canine jaw model as a result of incorrect use of dental instrumentation.

Additional skills

Additional skills sheets have been developed for the purposes of teaching students further dentistry-related skills. These include:

- Hand-held instrument identification
- Correct instrument handling technique
- Dental charting using the modified triadan system



Figures 5 and 6:

Additional skills sheets providing information on hand held dental instruments and dental charting. Such learning materials can be used in combination with commercial jaw models to help students acquire dentistry-related skills.

**Rachel H Lumbis, Susan P Gregory, Sarah Baillie (correspondence to rlumbis@rvc.ac.uk)
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