

A class practical to make vet students reconsider their health-biased view on farm animal welfare

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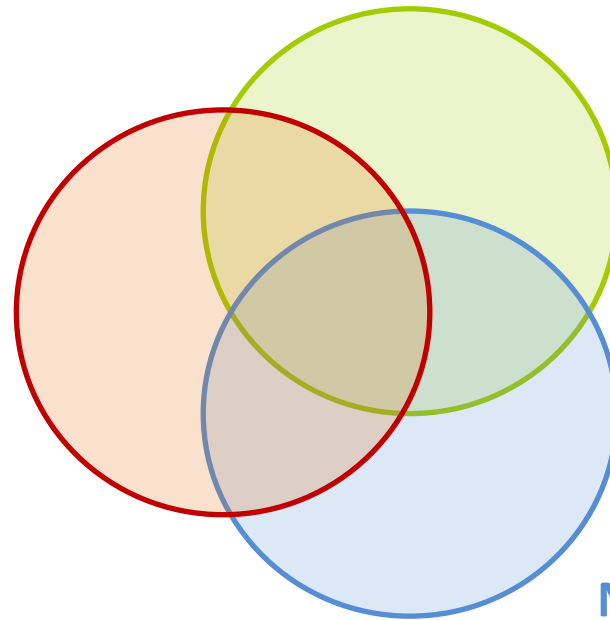
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How we assess AW depends on how we define it

Basic health & functioning

Is the animal fit and healthy?
Normal growth and function?



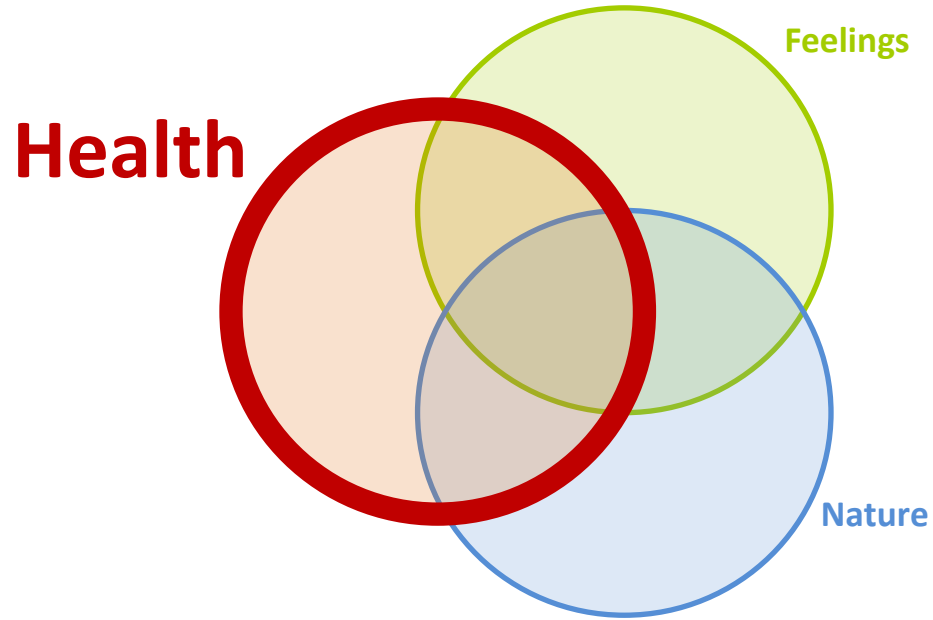
Affective states / feelings

Is the animal happy / feeling good?
Mental distress vs satisfaction?

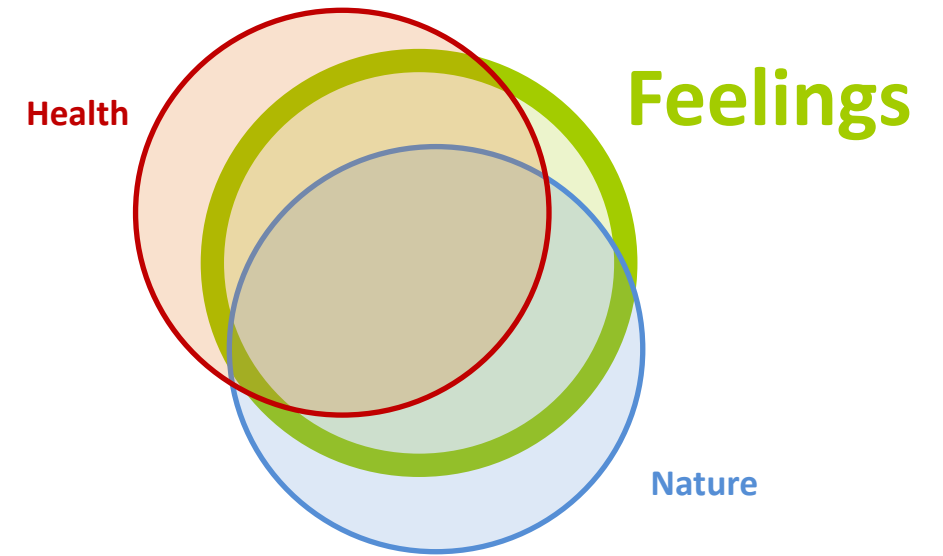
Natural living

Living a natural life?
Environment ~ natural habitat it is adapted to?

Vet (students)



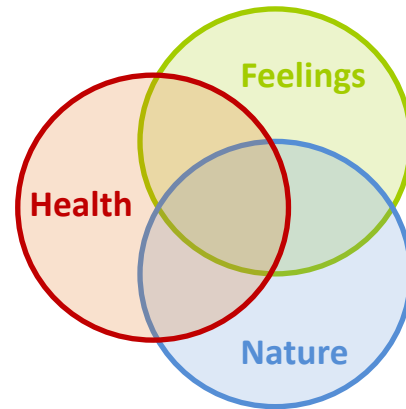
Myself



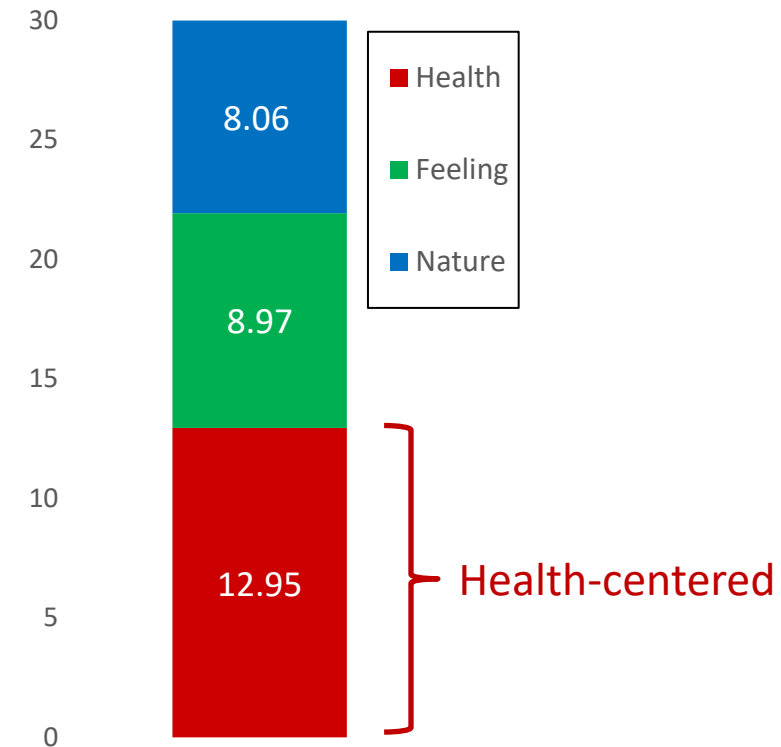
- **Class practical** to challenge vet students' Health-centered view on AW

Class Practical

- 2nd Master vet students (UGent) – option “Farm Animals”
- 108 participants (2018-2024)
- INFO-1: Fraser’s 3 views on AW

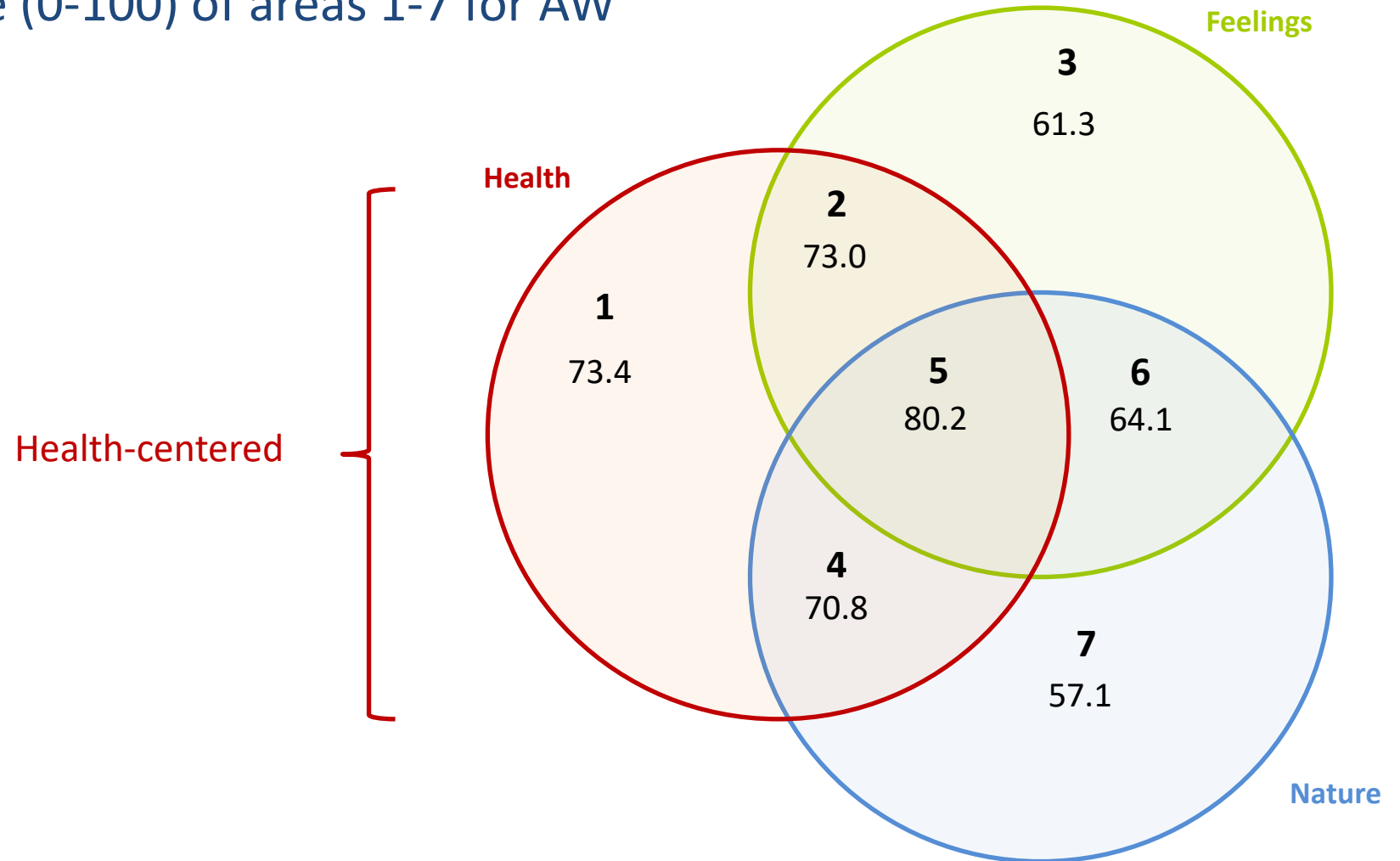


- TASK-1: allocate 30 points according to their personal view on relevancy of the 3 views for AW



Class Practical

➤ TASK-2: score importance (0-100) of areas 1-7 for AW



Class Practical

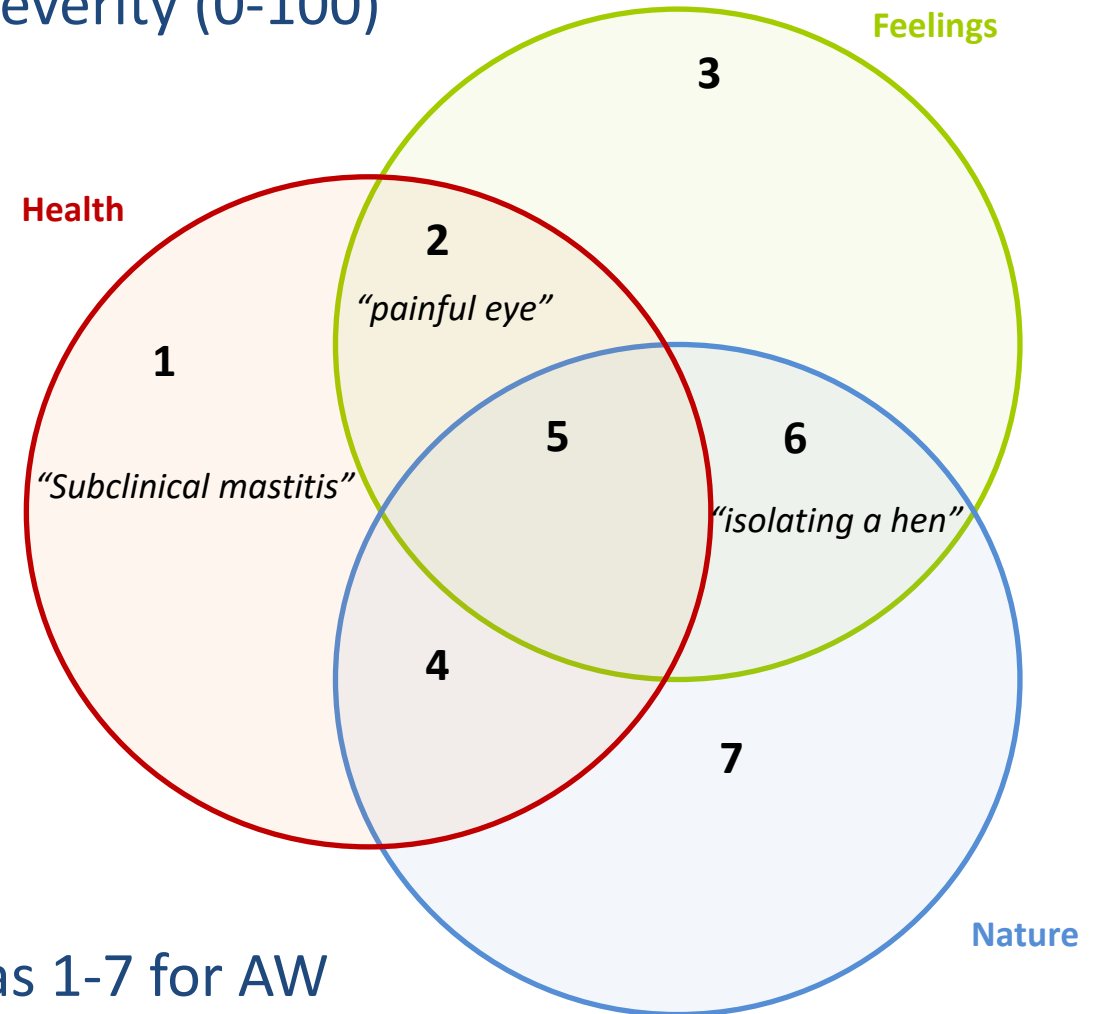
➤ GROUP-DISCUSSION: examples for 1-7 & AW-severity (0-100)

➤ TASK-3 (small groups): find other examples for 1-7 & propose a severity score to class

TO TEST THE EFFECT OF THE PRACTICAL:

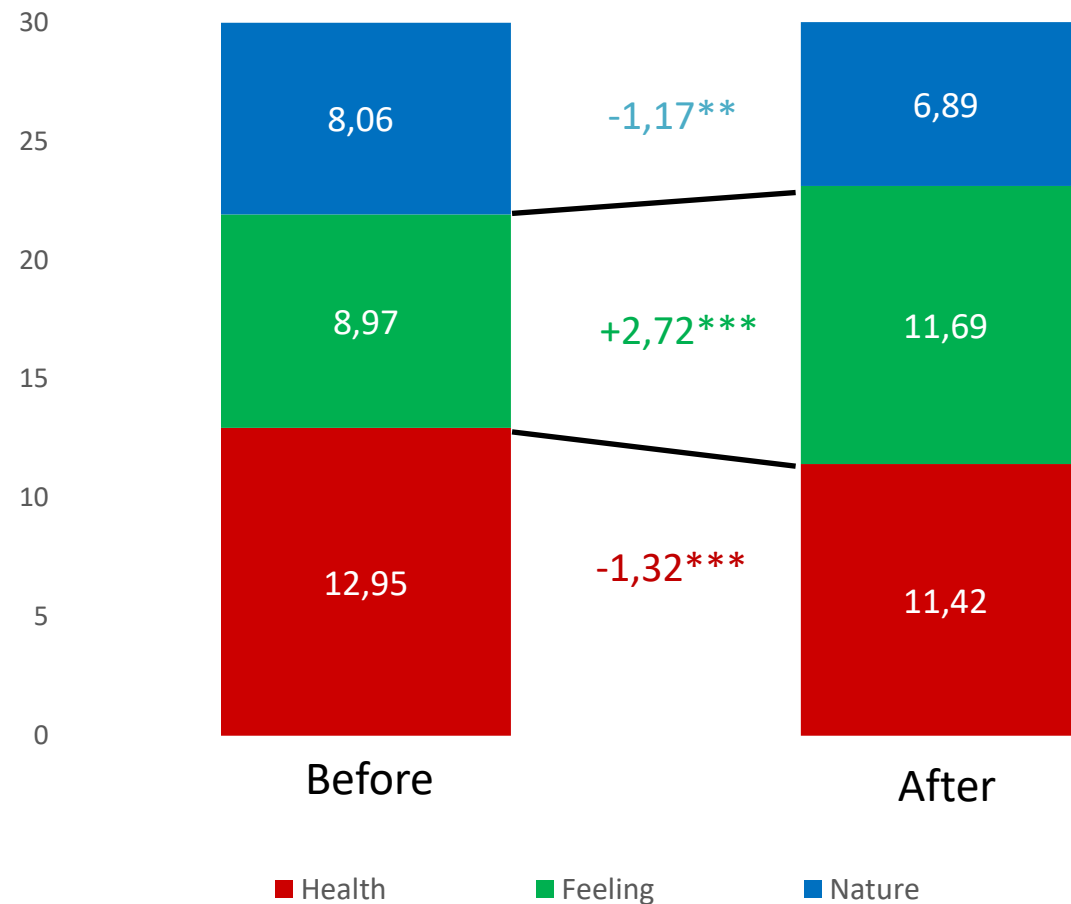
➤ TASK-4: allocate again 30 points for 3 views

➤ TASK-5: score importance (0-100) again of areas 1-7 for AW



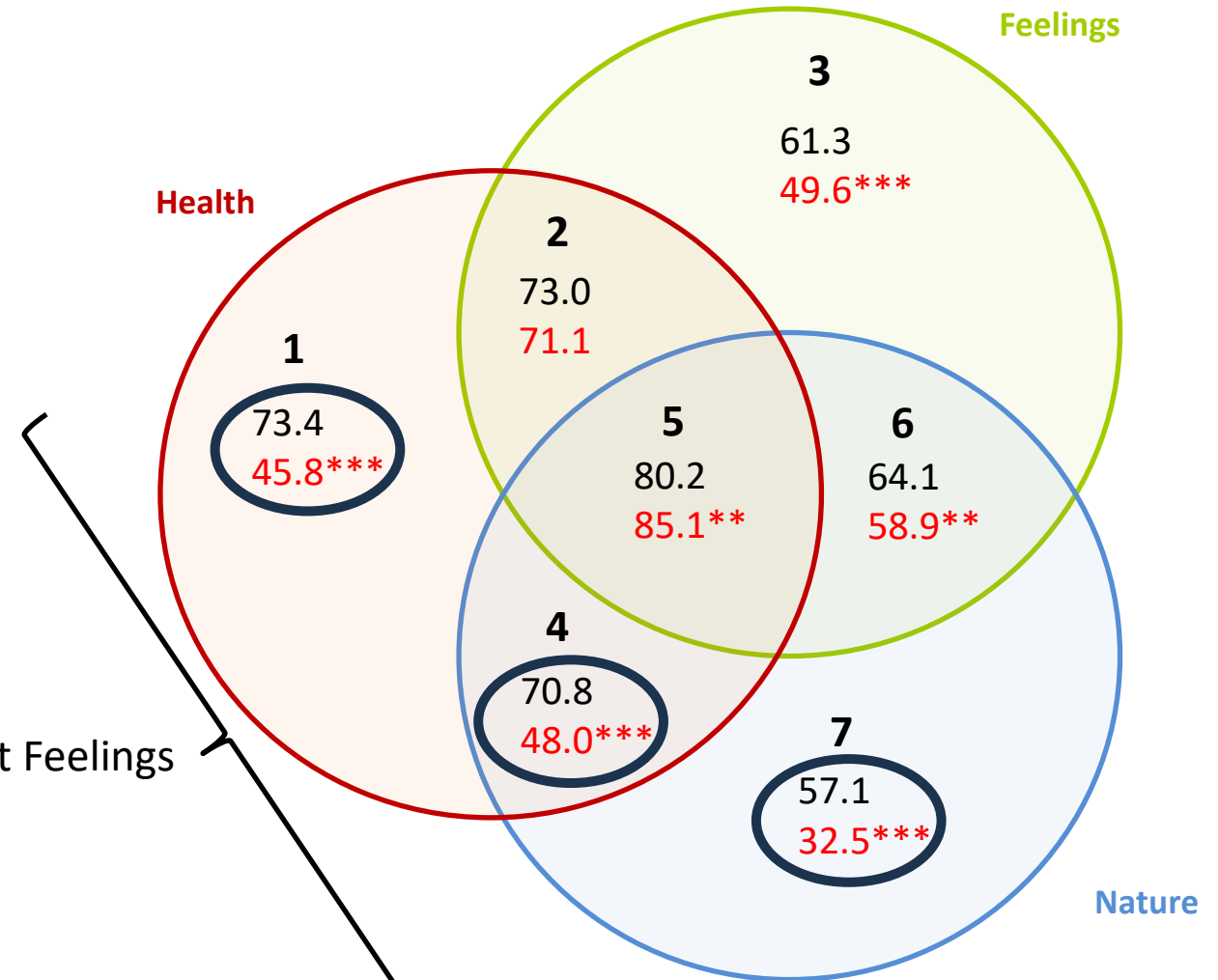
Did students' opinion change?

➤ Before vs After: allocation of 30 points for 3 views (paired t-test)



Did students' opinion change?

➤ Before vs After: 0-100 importance scores for areas 1-7



Largest reduction in scores for the 3 areas (1, 4, 7) without Feelings

Conclusions

- Practical introduced AW as a societal concept with 3 main views (*Health – Feelings – Nature*)
- Practical illustrated how AW assessment schemes and statements depend on how AW is defined
- Practical made vet students reconsider their Health-centred view (in favour of Feelings)
- Only immediate (short-term) effect tested – *Lasting effect??*

THANKS TO...

Participating students

You for your attention

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