

# INTERNSHIP REPORT

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Country: Japan

Position: DVM student at The University of Sydney

Period: December 2025 – January 2026

## WHAT DID YOU DO?

During my second internship at WOAAH, I supported several activities related to disease intelligence, communications, and wildlife health initiatives.

One of my regular tasks was conducting routine screenings using the EIOS platform twice a week. Through this work, I monitored regional disease reports and flagged relevant articles for further review. Many of the reports identified during this period were related to avian influenza, reflecting the seasonal situation in the region.

I also assisted with the GEDSI comic competition. My role involved creating an Excel sheet to track submissions and reviewing the entries to ensure they met the criteria. Reviewing these comics provided insight into how individuals from different backgrounds communicate challenges and perspectives related to veterinary services and animal health. This experience also reminded me of the importance of the PVS pathway and the role of WOAAH in strengthening veterinary services.

In addition, I contributed to the RAWNS newsletter by writing summaries of 2 animal welfare webinars held in the previous year and editing video content from one of the sessions. I also supported the development of a wildlife health stakeholder survey for the Asia-Pacific region by reviewing draft survey questions and preparing the survey introduction and cover letter.

I also had the opportunity to attend various internal and external meetings, including meetings with partner organizations such as MAFF and JICA, as well as wildlife health network meetings. These meetings provided valuable insights into regional collaboration and coordination in animal health.

## WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

Completing a second internship at WOAAH allowed me to build on the knowledge and experience gained during my first placement. As I was already familiar with some of the systems and workflows, I was able to carry out tasks more efficiently and better understand the broader context of the work. Having previously worked with the EIOS platform, I felt more comfortable conducting screenings and was able to work more efficiently. At the same time, I also began to notice some of the limitations of the platform. In some cases, relevant disease information was not captured when articles were published in local languages. This helped me better

understand both the usefulness and the limitations of open-source disease intelligence systems.

Working on the wildlife stakeholder survey also gave me a clearer appreciation of the careful planning required when designing surveys within an international organization. I was impressed by how thoroughly the questions were reviewed and how much attention was given to respondents' perspectives.

This time, I also learned more about how the WOAAH Tokyo office engages with external organizations and partners. Through meetings with institutions such as MAFF and JICA, I gained insight into how collaboration with government agencies and international partners supports regional animal health initiatives. In addition, I had more opportunities to communicate directly with WOAAH officers not only from the Tokyo office but also from the Bangkok office and Headquarters, which helped me better understand how coordination takes place across different offices.



## MESSAGE TO FUTURE INTERNS

I would simply encourage taking the opportunity to learn from the people around you and from the variety of projects taking place in the office. Even routine tasks can provide interesting insights when viewed in the broader context of international animal health work. Attending meetings and listening to discussions between colleagues and partner organizations can also help in understanding how collaboration takes place across different institutions and regions.

I was grateful to the team for welcoming me again and for allowing me to learn from their work during this internship.