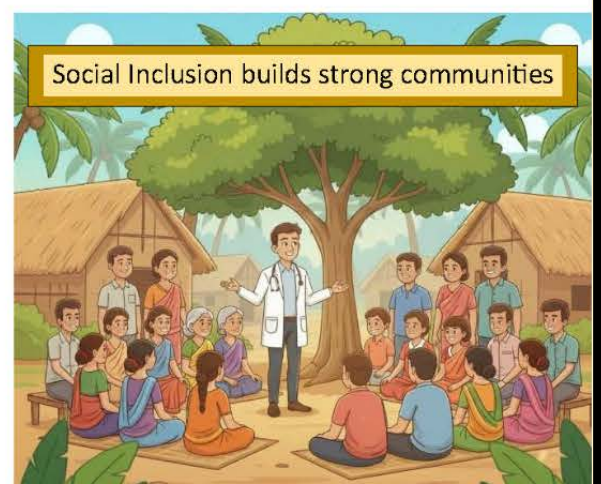
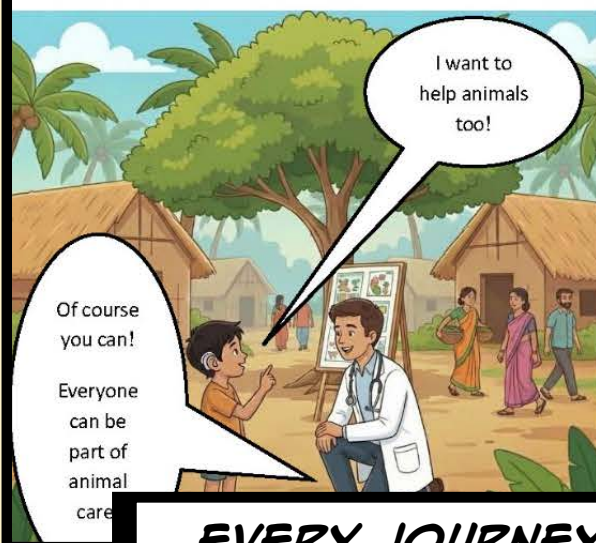
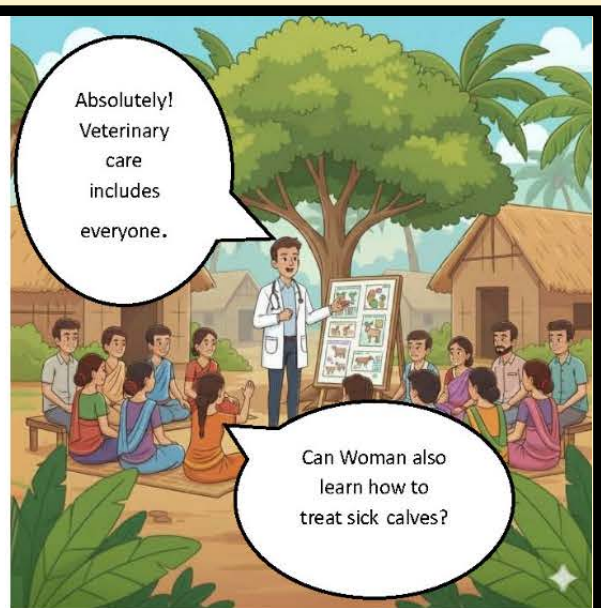
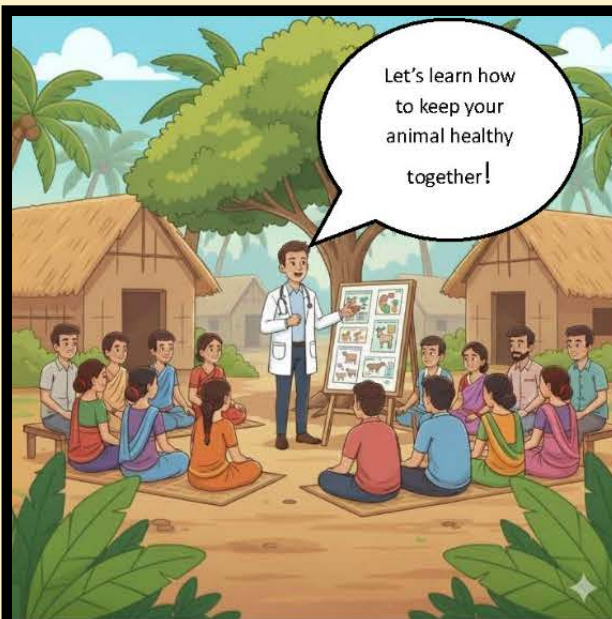




World Organisation
for Animal Health

SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC



EVERY JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A DREAM



Scan the QR code to access the comic stories in this publication in digital format, and to read several others.

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This publication was possible thanks to the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Note: Designations, statements and opinions in the material do not imply any official position of WOA or partner organisations, and responsibility for interpretation lies solely with the reader.

ABOUT THIS VOLUME

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is committed to strengthening gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) within the veterinary sector. Our recent work in Asia and the Pacific has shown that, while there is a growing number of qualified women and diverse professionals in the sector, many still face barriers shaped by longstanding norms, insufficient adjustments and unequal opportunities.

As noted in regional studies conducted by WOA in Asia-Pacific, gender stereotypes influence perceptions within the veterinary sector, and the absence of reasonable accommodations reinforces the exclusion of persons with disabilities. These findings highlight the need for continued awareness and action across institutions, training systems, and professional communities.

To foster this change, WOA has expanded its GEDSI initiatives, including awareness raising events and partnerships with veterinary associations and networks in Asia and the Pacific region, in particular the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS) and the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). The Comics Competition Promoting GEDSI in the Veterinary Sector, organised between December 2025 and January 2026, invited veterinary students and professionals to reflect creatively on what an inclusive profession looks like.

The competition aimed to celebrate storytelling, artistic talent, veterinary commitment and GEDSI values, and to inspire dialogue through accessible and engaging narratives. Among the winning submissions, the comic presented here captures the imagination, concerns, and aspirations of veterinarians in different parts of the Asia and the Pacific region. The story reminds us that inclusion is not only a policy goal—it is a shared cultural commitment that strengthens the profession and the communities it serves. While we could not award all participants with prizes, we appreciated all entries and will be sharing additional comic stories of note on our website (see QR code on the cover inner page).

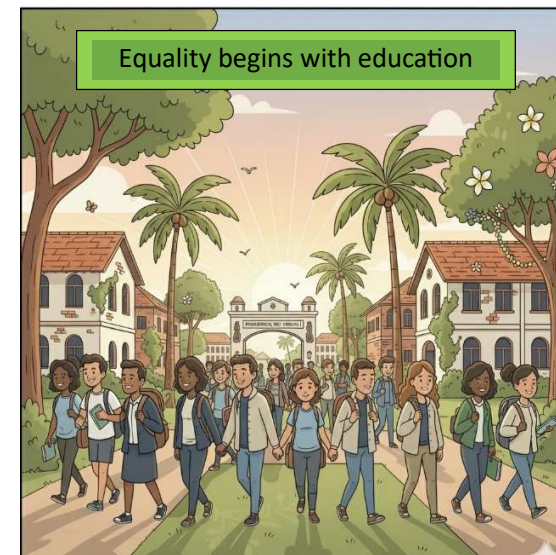
We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this competition, and thank all participants for adding their voices to this important conversation. This comic enriches WOA's ongoing efforts to promote a veterinary sector where everyone can thrive, advancing our mission to improve animal health and welfare globally and ensure a better future for all.

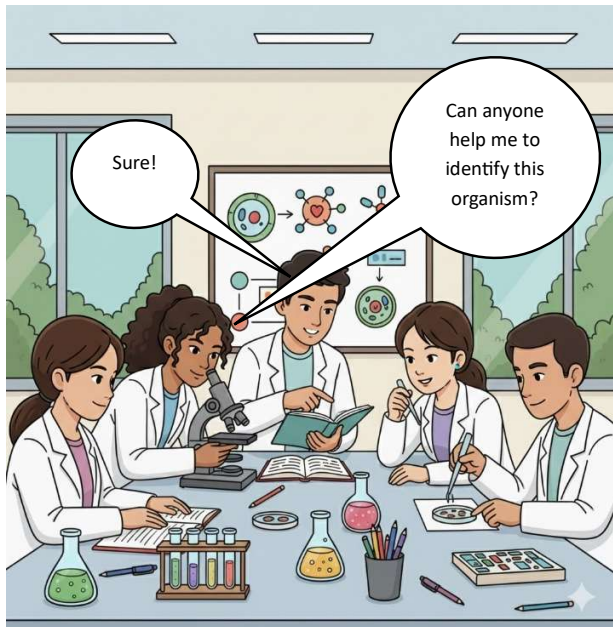
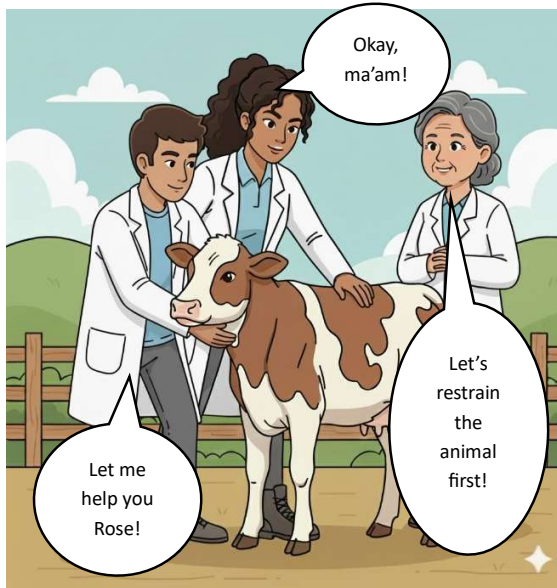


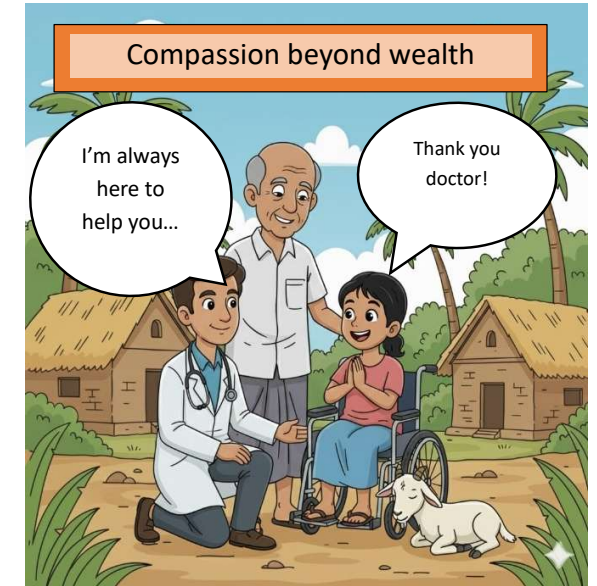
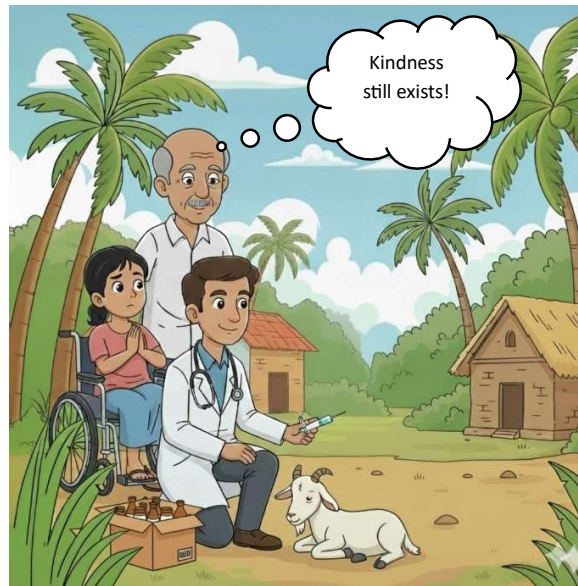
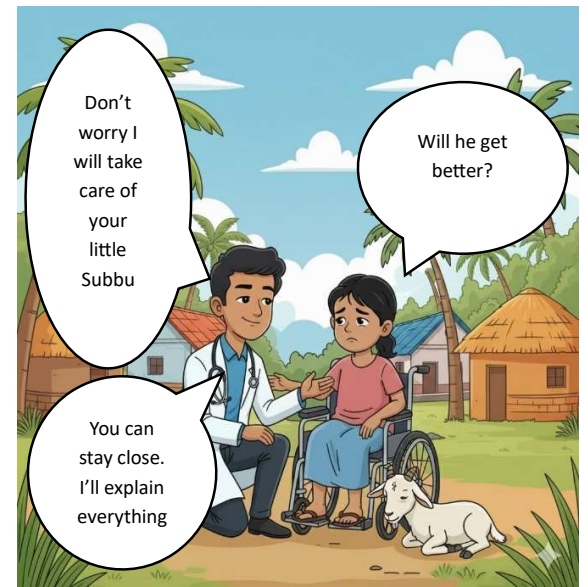
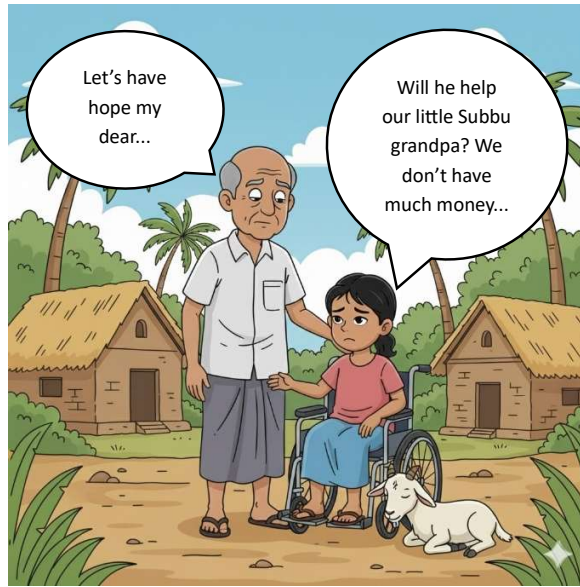
Dr Tomoko Ishibashi
*WOAH Regional Representative
for Asia and the Pacific*

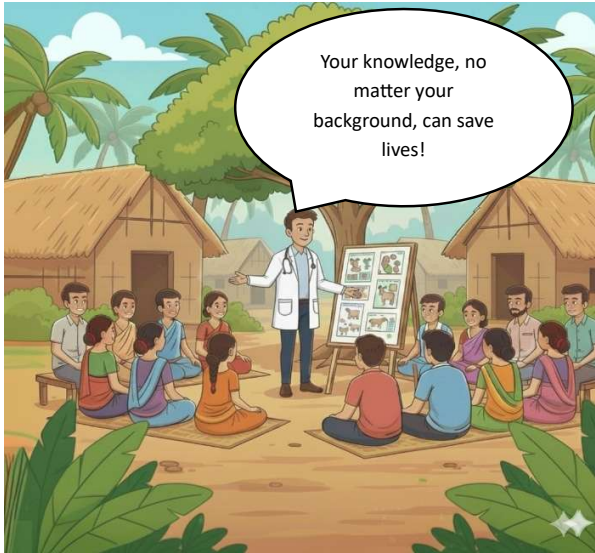
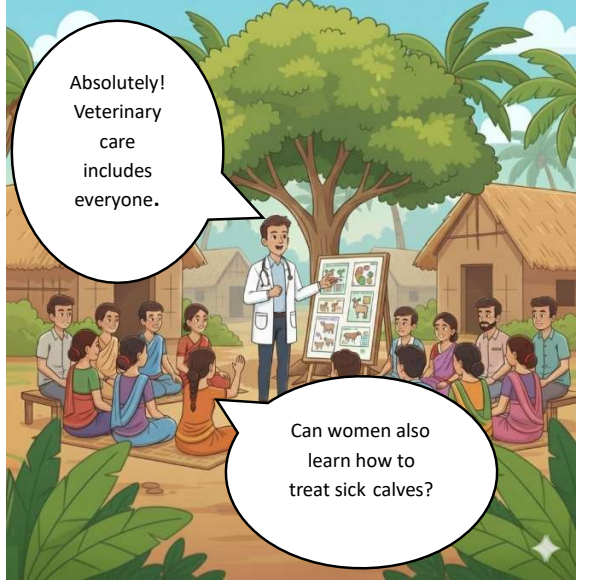
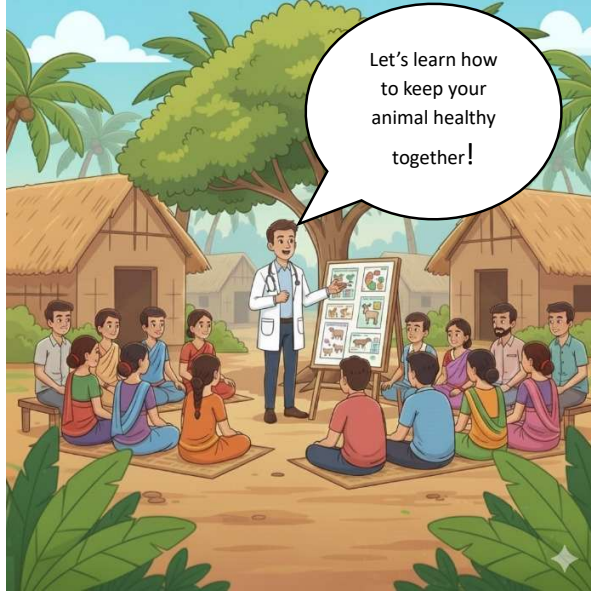
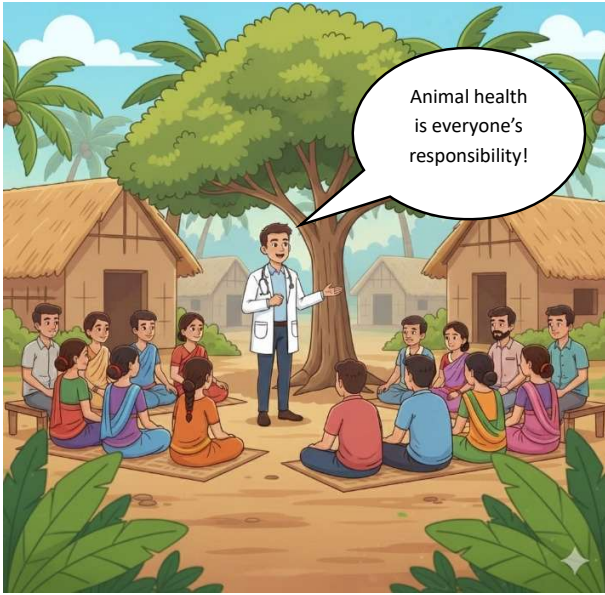


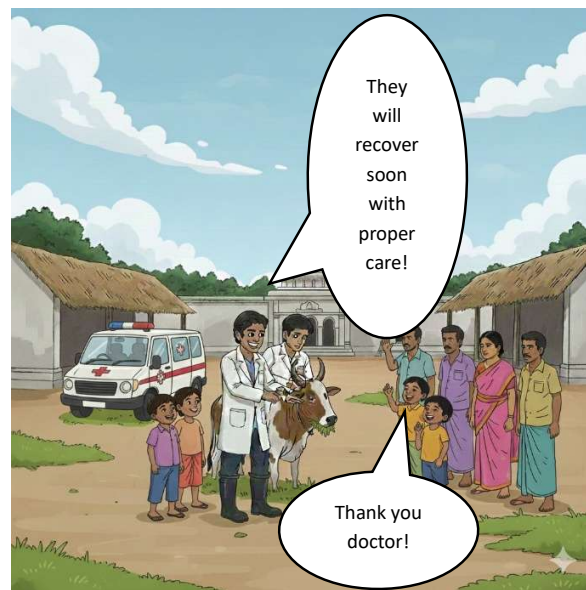
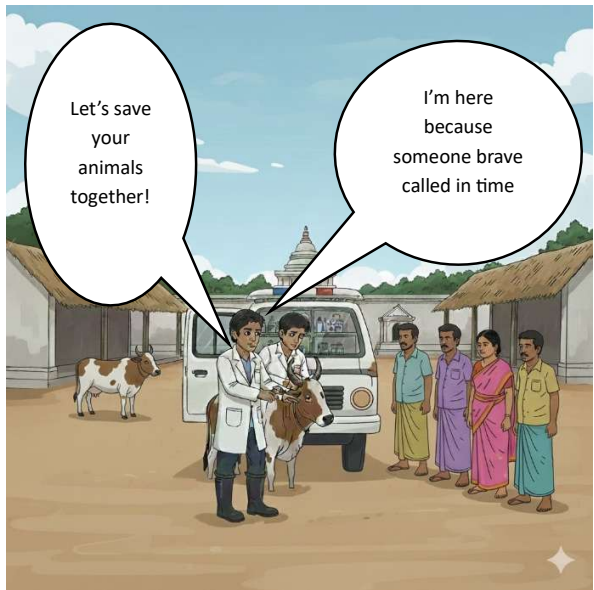
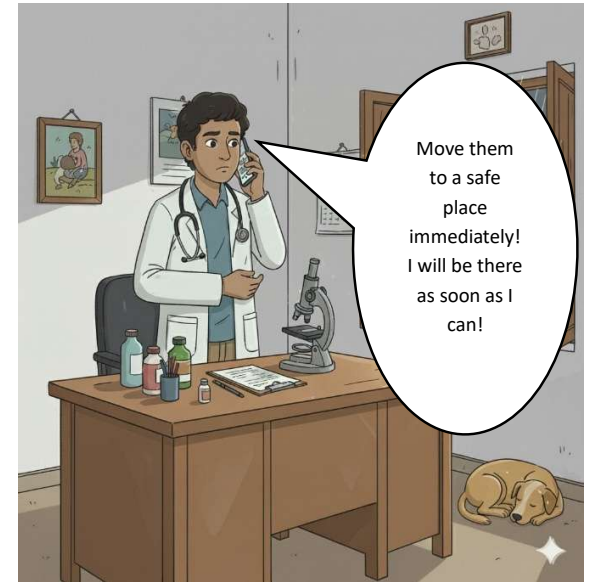
Dr Naree Ketusing
*WOAH Sub-Regional Representative
for South-East Asia*

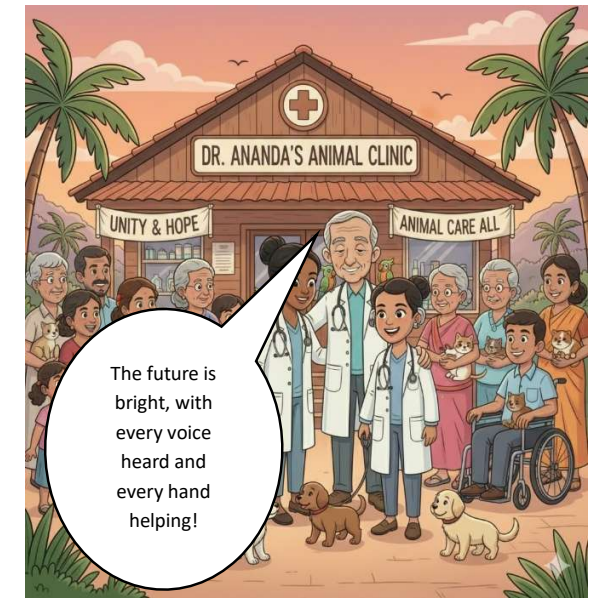
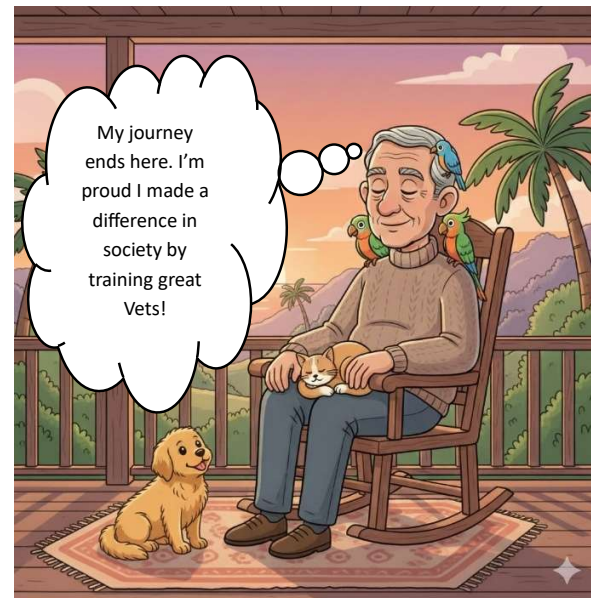
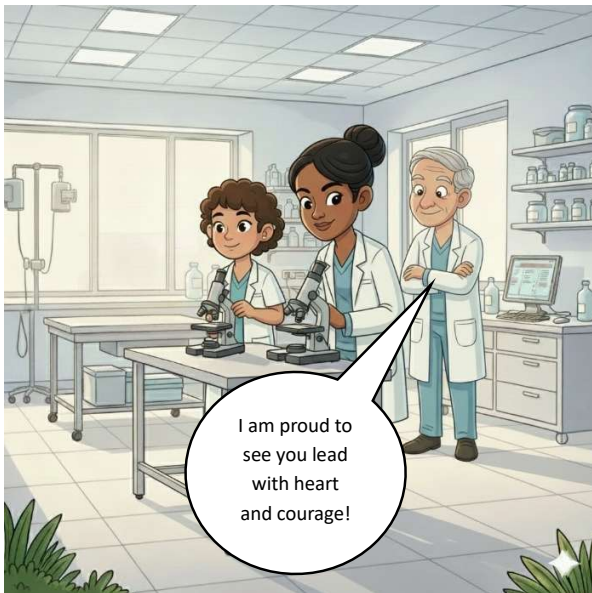
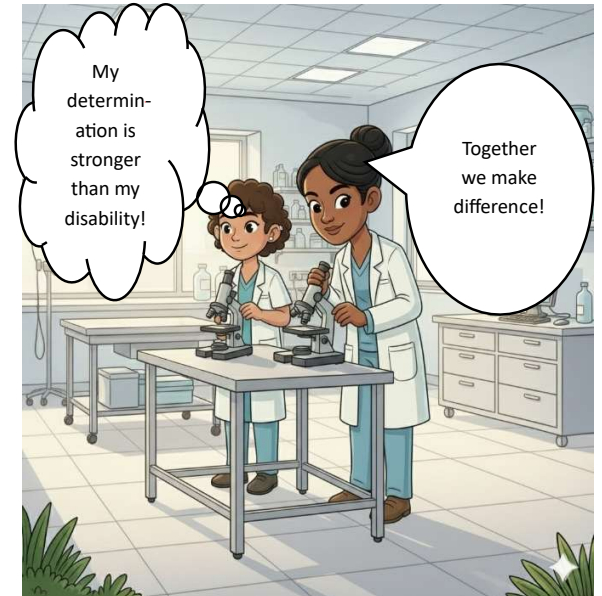












ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amaratunga Arachchige Yeshini Sewwandi

My name is Amaratunga Arachchige Yeshini Sewwandi, and I am a third-year veterinary student at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. This is my first narrated comic story, created out of my strong interest in exploring and experimenting with new creative abilities.

This comic narrates the inspirational journey of a male veterinary student in Sri Lanka who has a deep desire to serve society and bring positive change to the veterinary field. The story follows his path from veterinary school to retirement, highlighting several challenges and experiences he faces throughout his career.

The characters and events in this story are entirely hypothetical. Through this journey, the comic emphasizes gender equality, disability inclusion, and social inclusion, demonstrating how determination, mentorship, and equal opportunities can create a lasting impact on communities. The central message highlights that everyone, regardless of gender or ability can thrive and contribute meaningfully to the veterinary profession.


All comic panels were generated using Gemini AI, based on prompts carefully designed by me.


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