



World Organisation  
for Animal Health

# SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC



**SCARS TO STETHOSCOPE**



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

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## 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 WOAH 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, WOAH 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 WOAH'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.

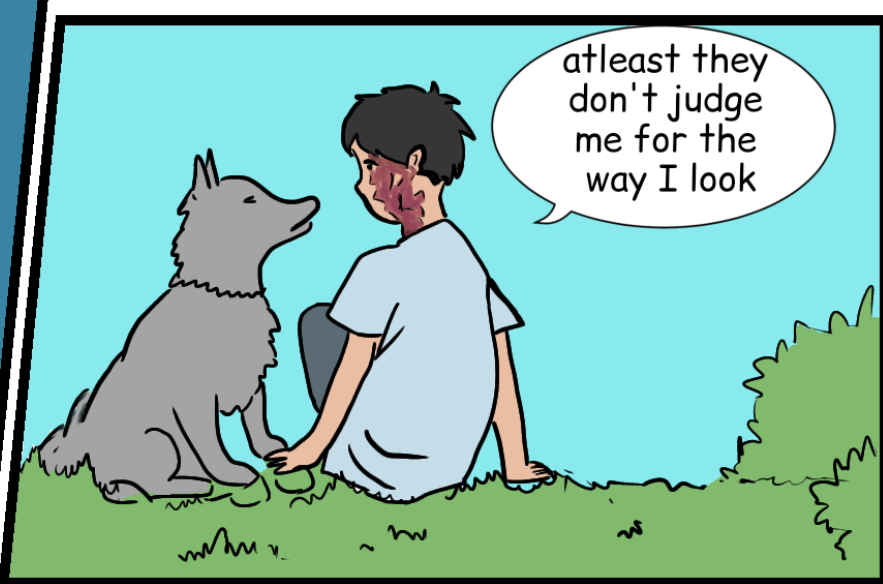


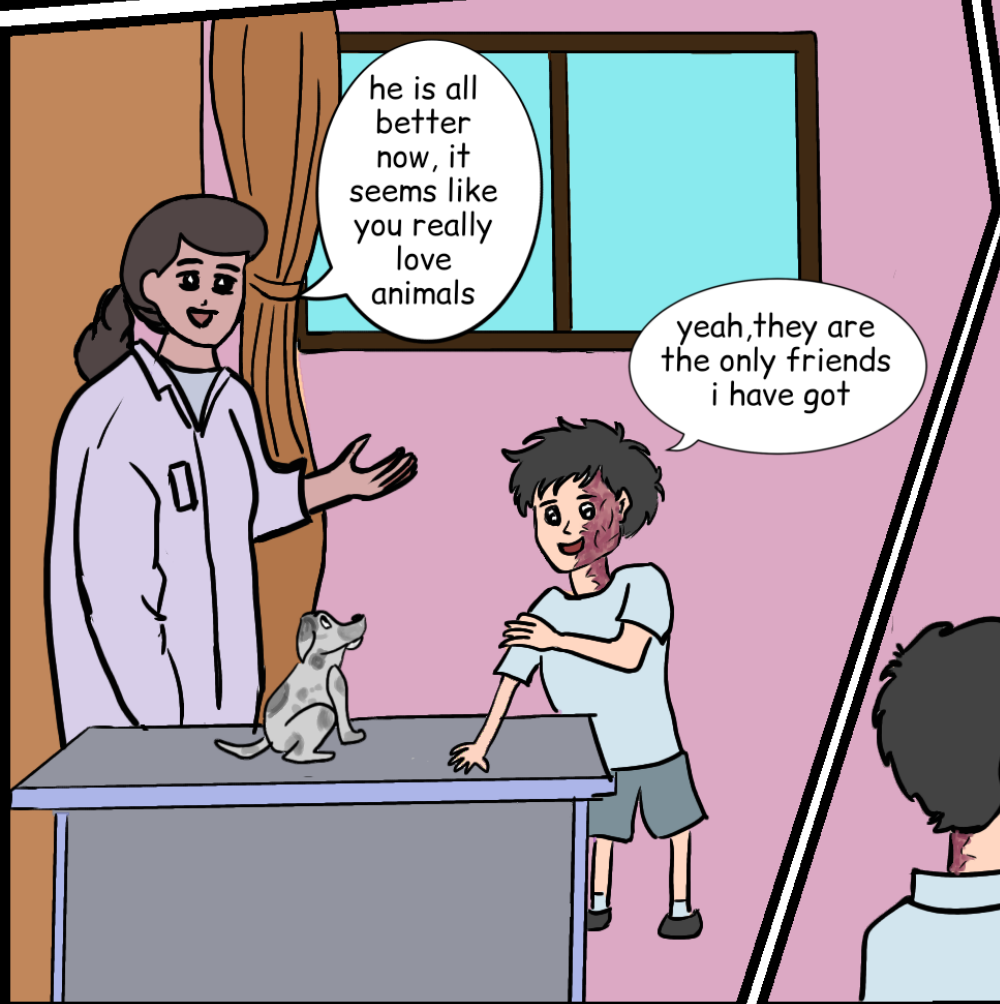
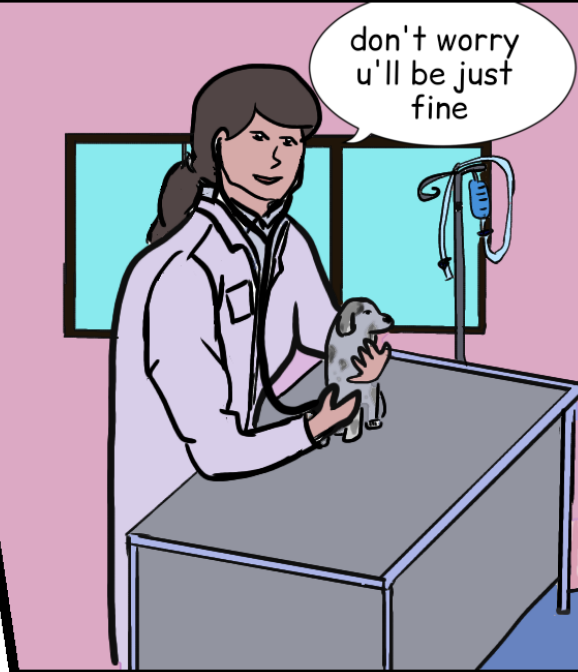
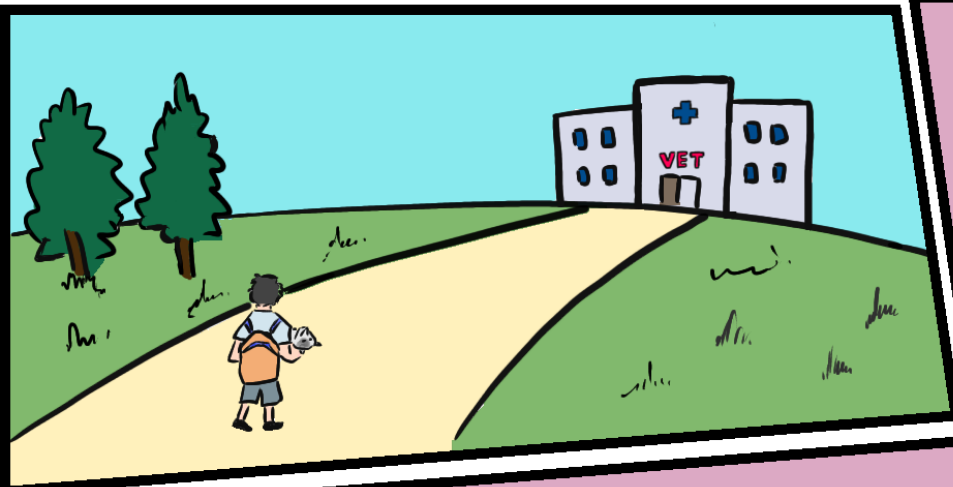
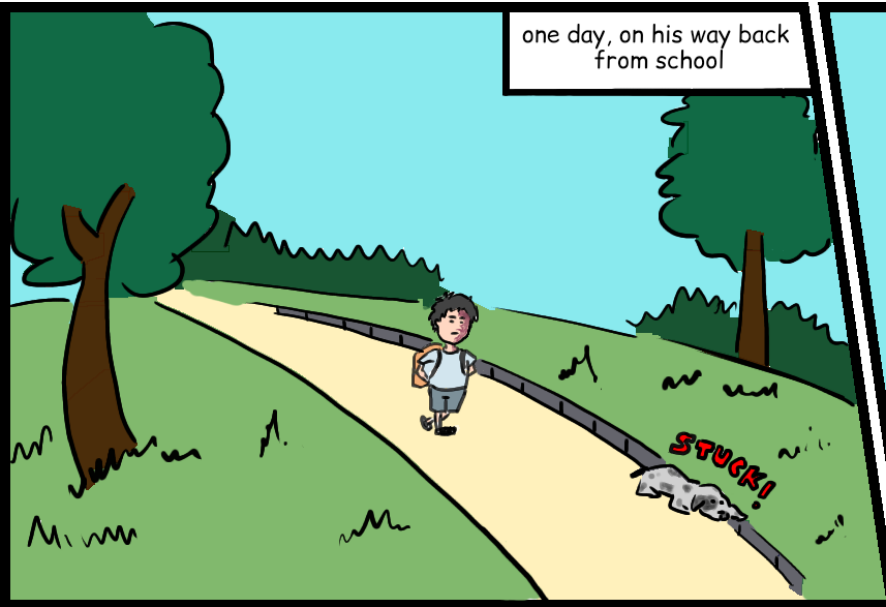
**Dr Tomoko Ishibashi**  
**WOAH Regional**  
**Representative for Asia and**  
**the Pacific**

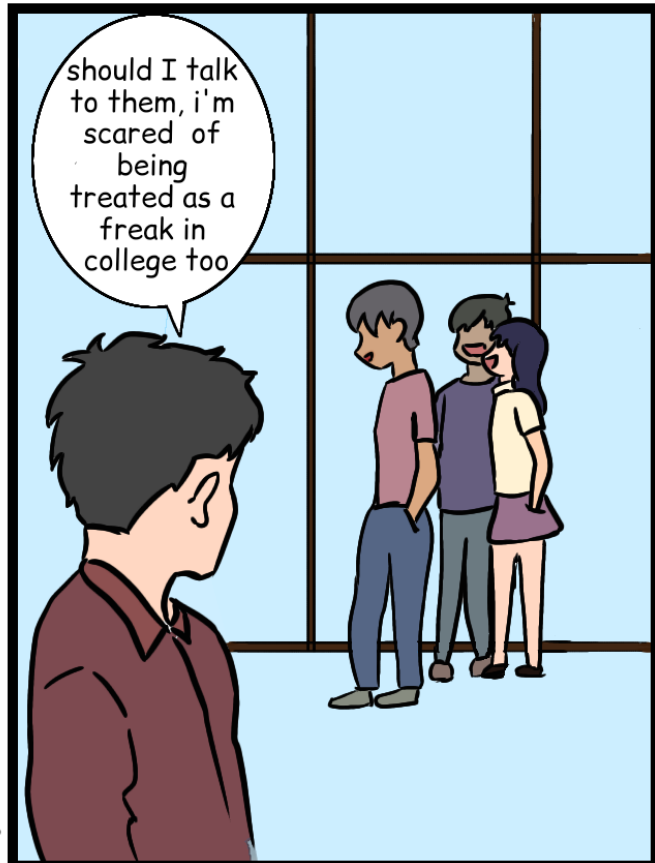
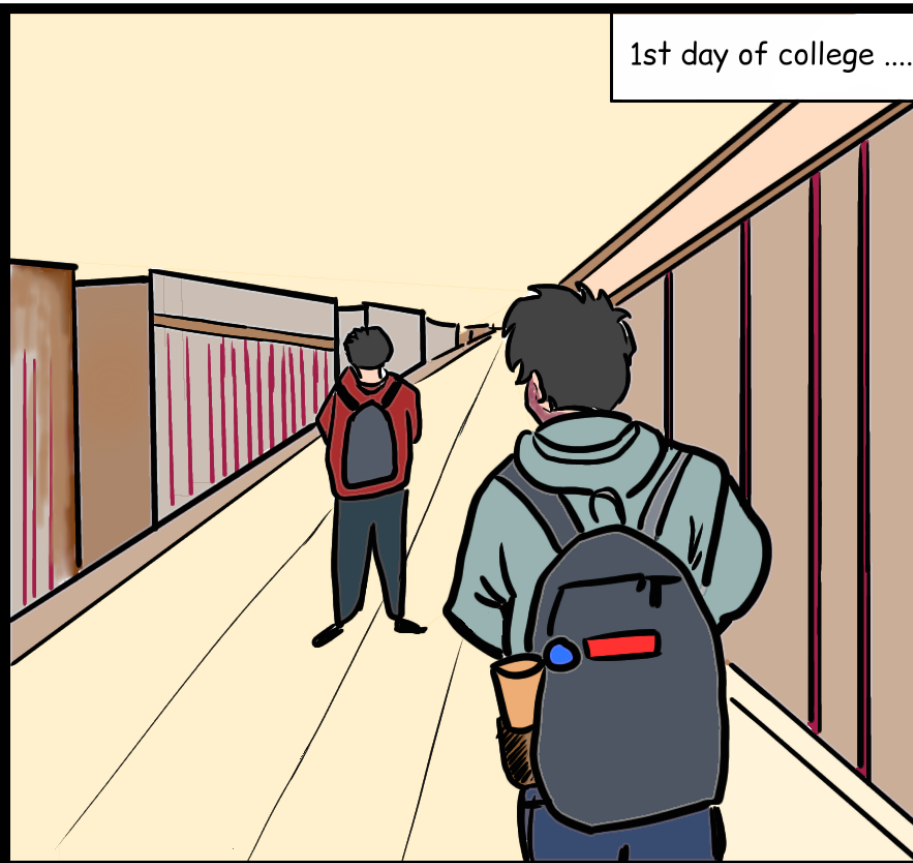
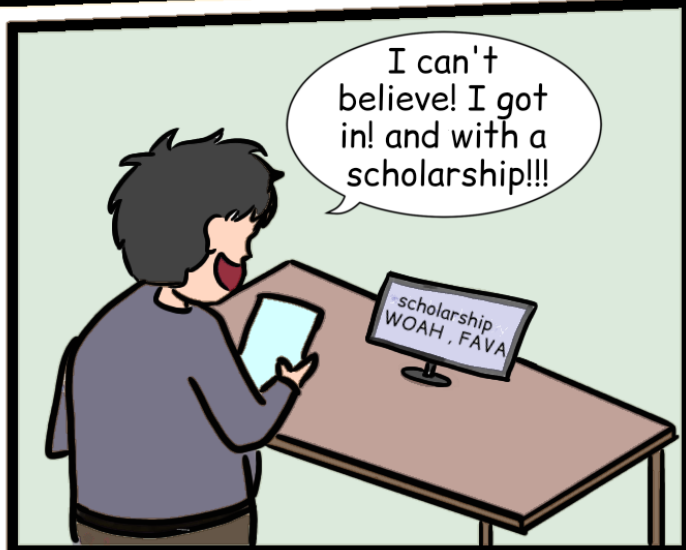
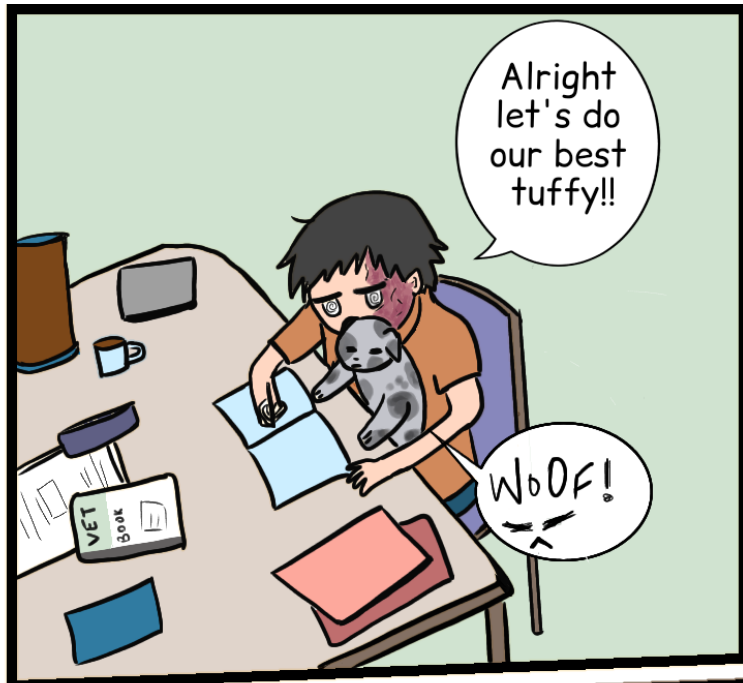
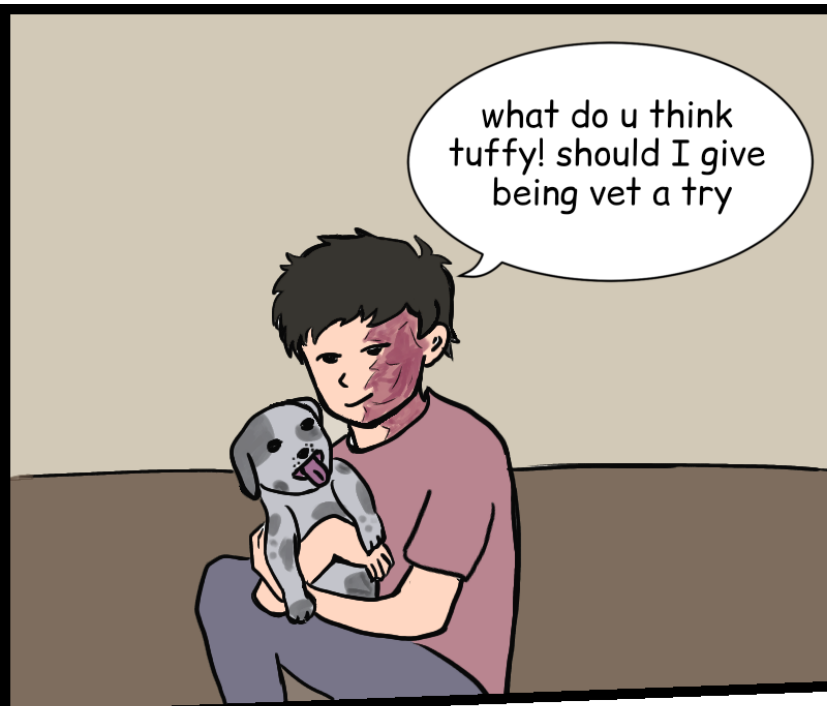


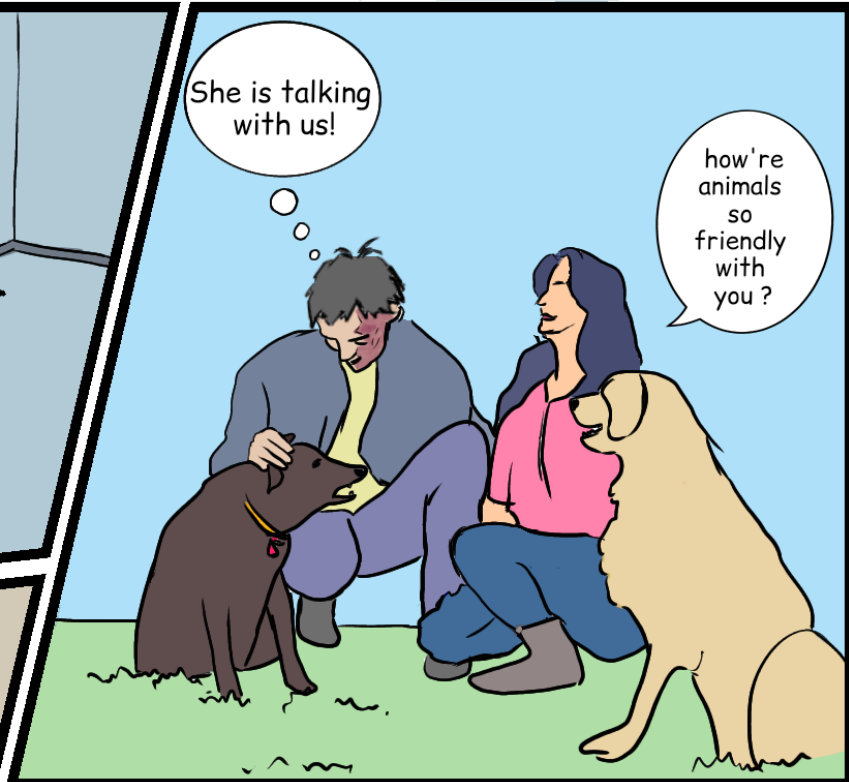
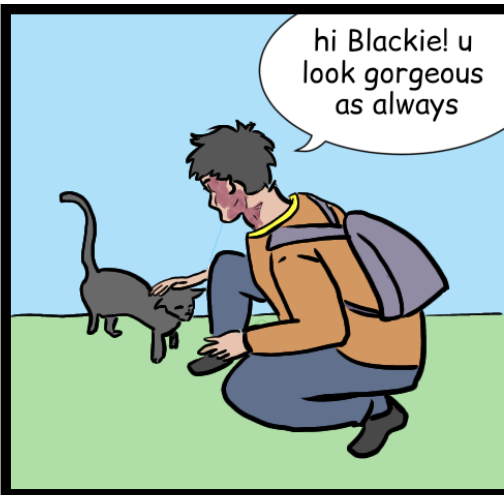
**Dr Naree Ketusing**  
**WOAH Sub-Regional**  
**Representative for South-East Asia**

# Scars to Stethoscope



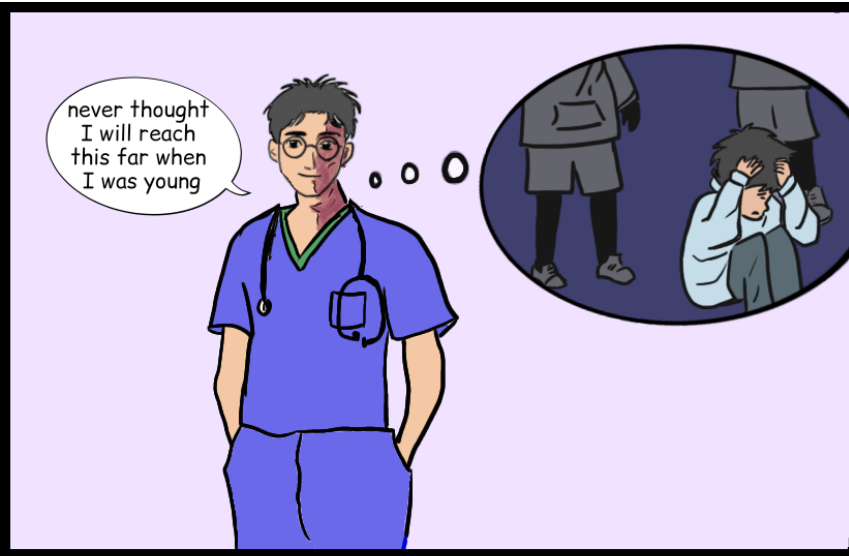






he started treating animals with  
compassion upon entering his  
internship year





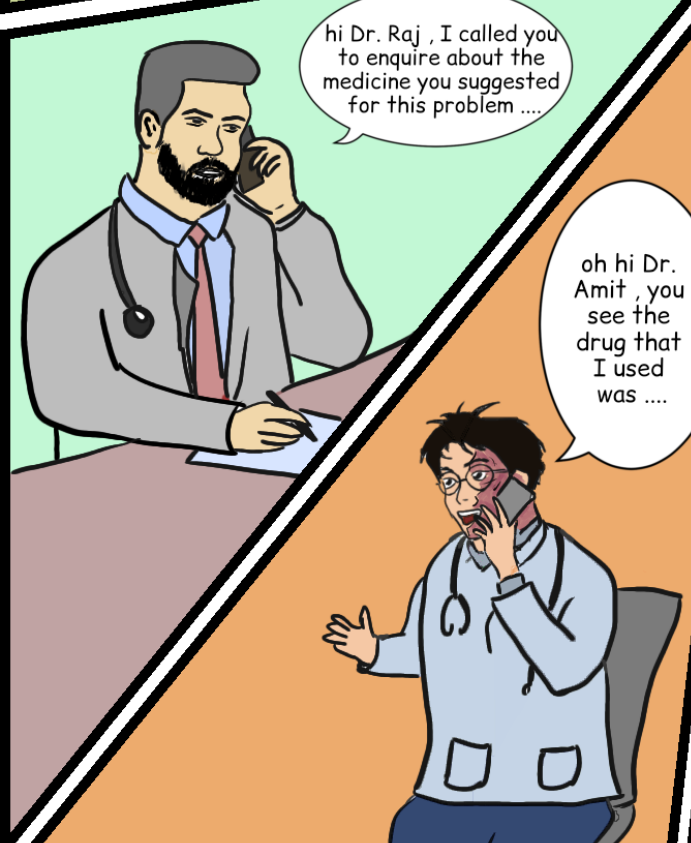
never thought I will reach this far when I was young



after graduating he opened a clinic to treat animals



the classmates who earlier were scared to talk to him now called him to ask doubts



hi Dr. Raj , I called you to enquire about the medicine you suggested for this problem ....

oh hi Dr. Amit , you see the drug that I used was ....



many veterinary students came to learn from him

so when you look at the anatomy of a dog ...

one day , at the clinic

doctor , mine Bobo is sick , please treat him

don't worry child , I will try my best

I hope he gets better soon , he is the only freind I have

your Bobo is all better now , go and meet him

oh mine little buddy , what would I ever do without you

so tell me , do you like animals?

**Yes!**

and that day , the doctor realised his purpose in life

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## Ekampreet Singh

My name is Ekampreet Singh. I am a 4th year student at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Science University situated in Ludhiana, India, pursuing a Bachelor's in Veterinary Science. I have spent more than a month developing this comic from outline to background along with colouring and dialogues.

### Comic description

My comic is a story about a boy who was socially excluded and bullied because of the way he looked, but he found friendship amongst animals. This led him to pursue veterinary sciences.




After becoming a doctor, he was socially accepted and even respected by his colleagues, patients and students. He later realised that his purpose in life was to guide more such children who are like him towards a better future, as life as a veterinarian had given to him.

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