



World Organisation
for Animal Health

SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC



WALK SLOWLY BUT NEVER STOP



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

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Note: Designations, statements and opinions in the material do not imply any official position of WOAH 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 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



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Walk Slowly but Never Stop
by Dara Cut Rinjani, DVM

Aceh, my homeland
A Place of incredible nature



Since I was a child, I have
been fascinated by this view
from that day on,
I was determined
to Preserve it.

They are truly
amazing.



And this is my journey



Aceh is home to unique megafauna

I am a Sumatran elephant



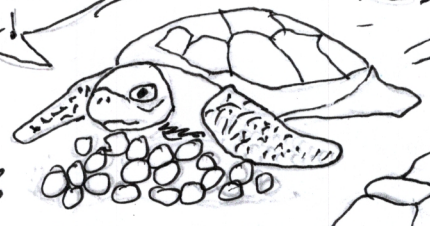
I am a Sumatran orangutan



Hi! I am a Sumatran tiger Rawrr!!

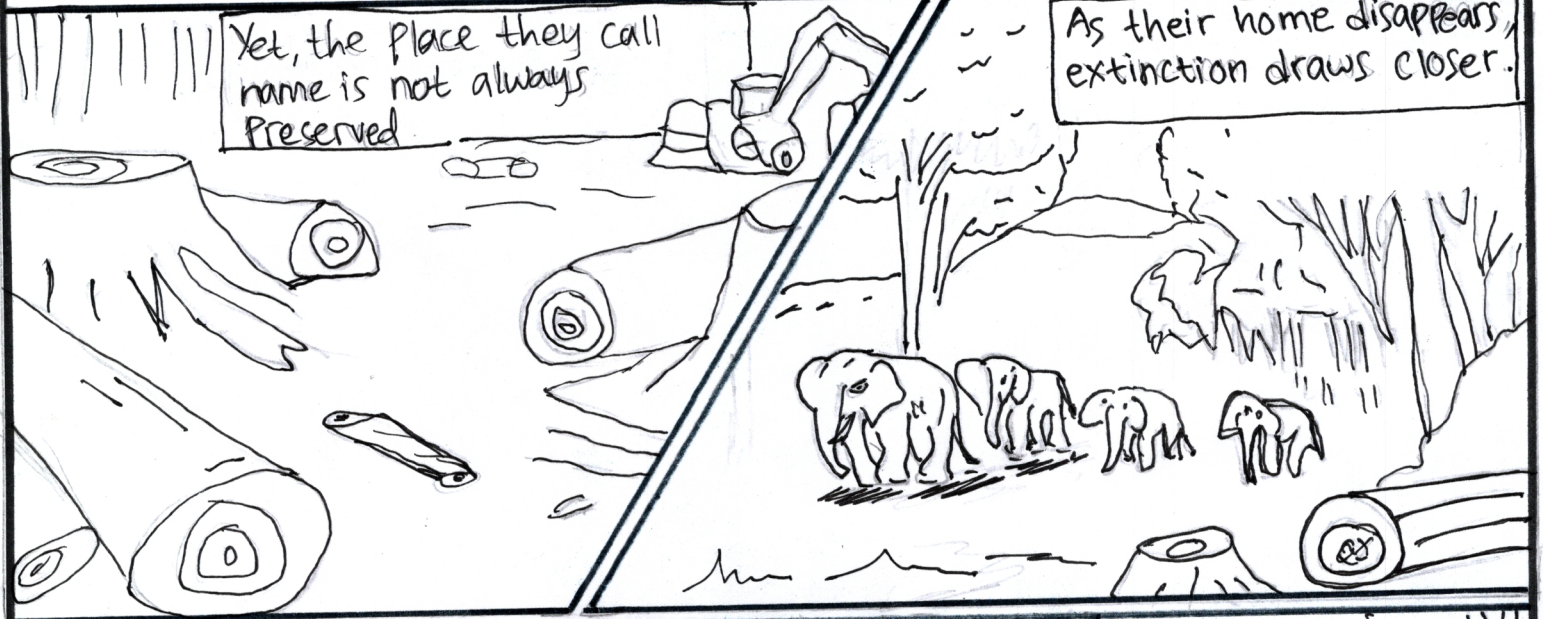


I am a green-sea turtle. In Aceh, three of my seven friends from around the world swim beside me!



Yet, the place they call name is not always Preserved

As their home disappears, extinction draws closer.



This was once the path our herd walked!

Human-wildlife Conflict was unavoidable.

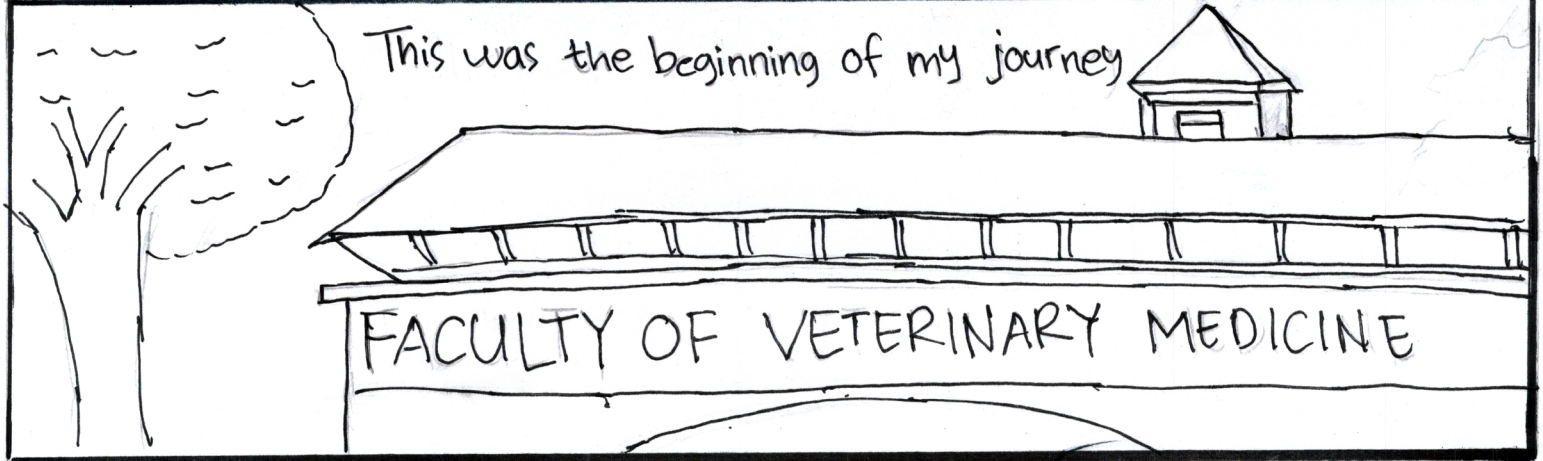


I have to Protect them.... but how?



This was the beginning of my journey

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



I became a Veterinary Student!



I learned and kept learning



Welcome, Dara. Welcome to the wildlife conservation class.

WILD LIFE VETERINARY TRAINING COURSE

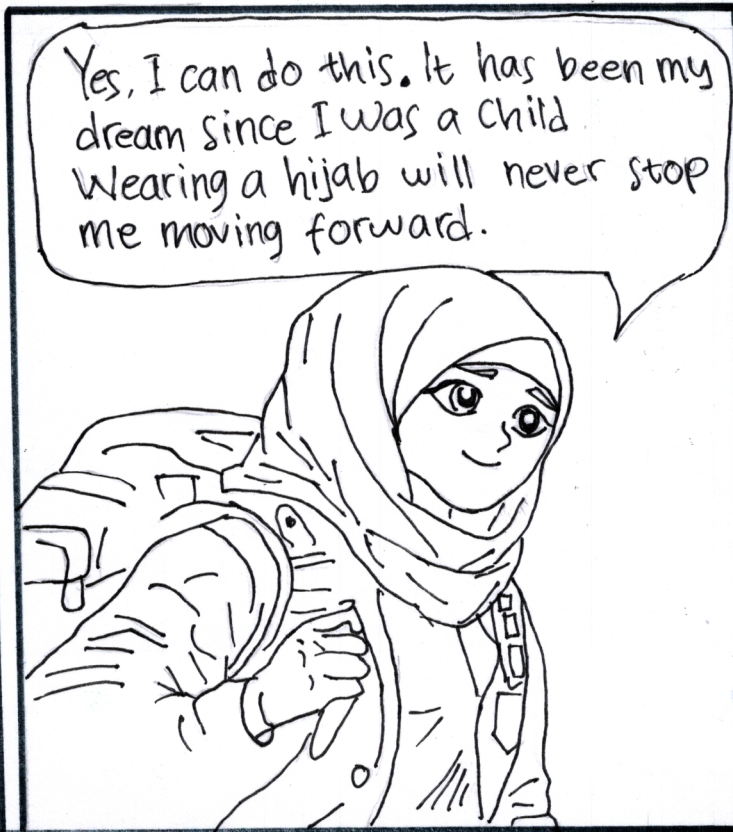
Thank you, sir!



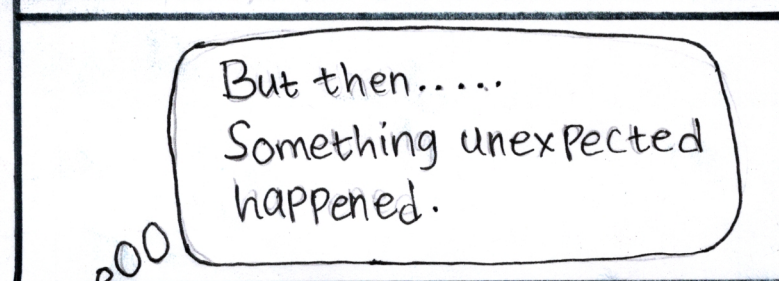
Dara, this field is not easy, especially for women. But I see great potential in you.



Yes, I can do this. It has been my dream since I was a child. Wearing a hijab will never stop me moving forward.



But then..... Something unexpected happened.

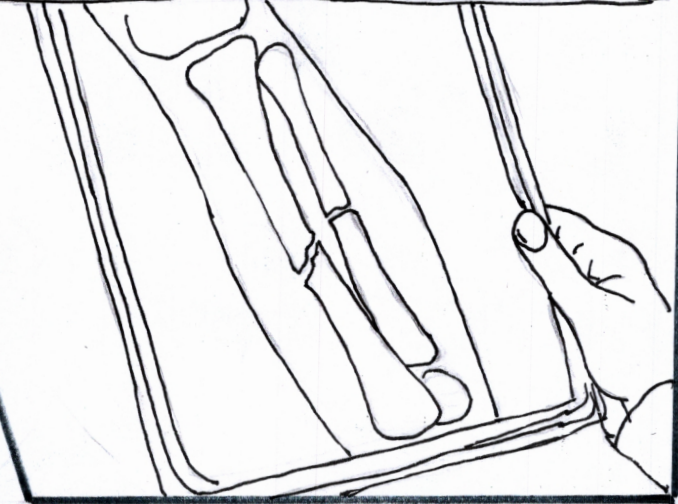


CRASH!



I had an accident.

I suffered a fracture in my right arm



This may take a long time to fully recover, but you will heal.



Will I still be able to become a veterinarian

ooo



You can do this, Dara
We are with you.

Yes, of course you
can. I believe
in you.



You're right guys, I'm not
done yet. I will fight even
stronger.

During my recovery, I couldn't ride a motorcycle. So I walked to campus. But, one day....

What is that?!
Is that a baby orangutan?



Sir, why is this baby orangutan being kept in the cage?



Oh, about that.....

I found this baby orangutan alone in my farm yesterday so I decided to keep it.



Sir, do you know that orangutans are protected endangered animals? They are not allowed to be kept as a pet. More importantly.....

They are wild animals and can transmit zoonotic disease.



I didn't know about that. I'm sorry so... what should I do now?



It's not too late, sir. We can save this baby orangutan by handing it over to the National Resources Conservation Agency.

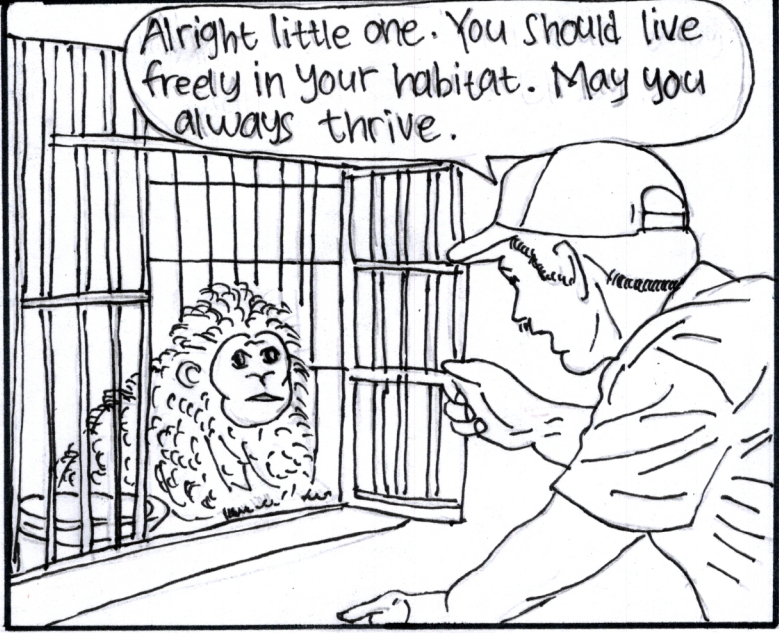


They will care of this baby orangutan at a rehabilitation center, and later release it back into the wild.

That's a great idea!



Alright little one. You should live freely in your habitat. May you always thrive.



Great job, Dara. You helped save this baby orangutan's life and prevented the spread of zoonotic disease. One day, you will become a great veterinarian.

Thank you, sir.



This journey is more than becoming a Veterinarian —
It's about protecting life and balancing the
ecosystem of humans, animals, and the environment.



This is the story of my journey as
a Veterinary student — For now
the journey continues.



I am Dara.
My journey is not
over yet.



Dara
Dara Cut Rinjani

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dara Cut Rinjani

This comic presents the author's personal experiences while pursuing veterinary medical studies at Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia. The story portrays dreams, struggles, and various challenges encountered in efforts to conserve wildlife.

The author was born and raised in Tanah Rencong, Aceh, and grew up in close harmony with nature, surrounded by rich biodiversity. However, over time, the author has witnessed significant environmental changes in the surrounding area.

Population growth and expansion have led to the continuous decline of forests and natural habitats in Aceh. This situation often triggers conflicts between humans and wildlife, such as herds of elephants entering residential areas, as well as the increasing prevalence of illegal hunting. In addition, public awareness of the risk of diseases transmitted by wild animals remains relatively low.

One day, on the way home from campus, the author encountered a farmer who was feeding a baby orangutan kept inside a cage. The author then gathered the courage to engage in a dialogue and explain that orangutans are not pets. Orangutans are protected wildlife species in Indonesia and possess wild instincts, making them potential carriers of infectious diseases.




Through this visual narrative, the author shares concerns regarding the lack of public awareness about the risks of zoonotic diseases. One of the key moments depicted is the dialogue between the author and the farmer about the dangers of keeping an orangutan as a pet. This comic represents the hope and dedication of a future veterinarian in realizing the One Health principle to maintain ecological balance between humans, animals, and the environment in Indonesia.

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