

Case Study: Groenhorst Barneveld

Who: Groenhorst Barneveld

Where: Barneveld, Netherlands

Case Study: Hands on learning with ZIMS

Summary: Groenhorst Barneveld is a vocational college in the Netherlands that specializes in animal husbandry and veterinary nursing, and has trained many zoo-keepers who have gone on to have rewarding zoo careers. The campus maintains a collection of over 2,000 animals belonging to 200 different species, allowing students to learn and practice zoo science before they graduate.

Animals are cared for year-round by the students, and senior students teach their younger peers husbandry skills.

Until becoming a LearnZIMS teaching partner, the zoo sciences program maintained paper husbandry records. Now ZIMS has replaced that method. Jan Harteman, a teacher at Groenhorst Barneveld, migrated the old data with the help of two students, Carli

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Students Carli and Tiffany, ZIMS experts

and Tiffany. In 15 weeks the two taught faculty how to use the software through handouts they translated into Dutch. The tools in ZIMS are allowing Groenhorst Barneveld to more effectively manage their collection of animals, according to Harteman. And the software is also a huge addition to their educational material.

Harteman is not the only one to see its educational relevance. “Day by day I understood the web-based program more,” said Tiffany. “And I saw the potential it has for both a complete and up-to-date animal register and the educational benefits it can have for the students at our college.”

Through the use of LearnZIMS, students can quickly learn the tools that ZIMS has to offer, bringing that knowledge with them into the workplace after they graduate. “ZIMS is great to work with, to have a real-time overview of all animals and to manage a collection,” Carli added. “If you’re new to the subject, there is quite a long learning curve to understand and use the basic tools. On the other hand, discovering all of those tools was most enjoyable.”

Harteman stated that ZIMS is getting more attention from his colleagues for the educational and management capabilities of the software. ZIMS is quickly becoming a staple at Groenhorst Barneveld for animal collection management.

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