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UNAB PRIDE | Doctor in Veterinary Medicine UNAB and his experience assisting working equines in Egypt

Dr. Felipe Corrêa was in charge of the medical assistance of working horses, donkeys and mules in Cairo, as part of the work carried out by the NGO Egypt Equine Aid. In addition to treating injuries and illnesses, this volunteer experience contributed to the education of the owners in animal welfare.



Egypt Equine Aid is an Australian NGO that since 2014 runs a veterinary hospital for working horses, donkeys and mules in Cairo. Its objective is to attend and take care of sick and injured animals, giving them the possibility to rest until they recover. Part of this work directly involves educating owners and the local community, in order to increase awareness of animal welfare .

Another relevant aspect of this work is offering practical experience to veterinary medicine students and development opportunities to professional veterinarians. In May of this year, Dr. Felipe Corrêa - a graduate of the UNAB Veterinary Medicine Doctorate and former academic of our house of studies - returned to Chile after leading the work of this NGO during a four-month volunteer service .

On this experience, Dr. Corrêa explains that the level of education of the owners in general is very low, to the point that animal welfare is practically non-existent .

"Equidae are treated as working instruments, which, if they do not perform, are not given water or food," he details.

Thus, during long days of eight hours a day, six days a week, the main tasks consisted of treating wounds, fractures, colic, deworming, as well as contributing to the education of the owners of these animals. "I was also in charge of training local veterinarians, who have not had many opportunities to work with foreign equidae or veterinarians," he says.
Work with meaning and projection

"It is gratifying to know that after learning about the NGO's work, many owners return and change some of their habits," reflects Felipe Corrêa, highlighting that although this volunteering lasted four months, before finishing his work in Egypt he made sure to leave as replacements Nathalie Sánchez, former intern of the Equine Veterinary Hospital of the UNAB, and Eduardo Díaz, former student of Veterinary Medicine, also from our university.

Both are currently in Cairo. In this regard, Dr. Corrêa considers that this volunteering is presented as an interesting opportunity for our Veterinary Medicine students to apply as interns "and get to know a reality that is very different from what they see during their studies . "