

# No FOG; GO DOG BY: THE SYMBIOTIC PEOPLE



*Val Kim/Ivan Guan*

Photo including all could not be taken due to COVID-19.



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## Objective of Project

- Reduce amounts of medical waste from hospitals by **30%**
- Save **double** the number of animal lives that could not be saved due to shortages of equipment
- Build **everlasting partnerships** between medical organizations such as the vet clinics and hospitals
- Establish financial base for small vet clinics or other organizations by deducting spend up to **50%**
- Be the **first** to take advantage of expired yet sterile medical equipment

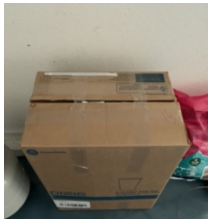
## Global Development Goals

- Good Health and Well-Being by helping animals stay healthy
- Decent Work and Economic Growth by conserving materials
- Sustainable Cities and Communities by reducing waste of medical products
- Responsible Consumption and Production with new types of uses of medical equipment
- Climate Action by reducing waste in general that will help with climate problems
- Partnerships to Achieve the Goal by connecting various local organizations and building a bond

## Outline

'The Symbiotic People' was formed and the idea to help local vet clinics that were distressed about the lack of supplies plus financially pressured while also sustaining the environment through reduction of waste was thought of. The project "No Fog; Go Dog" that was created by us is basically about building connections between hospitals and vet clinics so that the materials that hospitals throw away because of expiration dates (yet applicable on animals) will be given to vet clinics to reduce medical waste, support small clinics financially, and save animals' lives. Statistically, approximately 30 million tons of medical waste is created and hundreds of animals in need die due to lack of supplies; our project can reduce a substantial portion from that.

The necessary organizations such as Chilliwack Hospital, Abbotsford Hospital, Brookwood Vet Clinic, and the SPCA were contacted. Some other places were connected to us, but they were not willing or had a regulation that forbid them from joining in our project. Yet, the Chilliwack Hospital, Brookwood Vet Clinic, and the SPCA were all cooperative of the idea and agreed the number of problems our project would solve. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19, no specific actions were made with the Brookwood Vet Clinic or the SPCA as the equipment from the hospital was received only.



The box containing the medical equipment that were to be thrown away arrived from the organizations that we partnered up with, which were various local hospitals. This was just the sample box to give to the vet clinics and other organizations for use, and after it is certified by them, the hospitals were planning to give a much higher percentage of their wastes to us for the clinics. However, these are not delivered yet due to the coronavirus and therefore the supply chain is very complicated right now.



This is a sample kit we have formed for the clinics so that they can try using a small portion of the products to see if they are usable. After they approve, a much larger quantity will be given to them so that they can use them regularly. It includes things like needles and biopsy kits.

(Planned) After giving our the equipment and finding out that the vet clinics do not have a problem with the products (which they shouldn't because the models were agreed upon earlier), our plan is to build a connection between the hospital and the clinic so that they can cooperate further on without us having to be the middleman every time. Then, we are going to spread our radius from just some local hospitals to a provincial level with many more organizations involved. Additionally, as extra support, it was planned that our group was going to do a fundraiser to raise blankets for the dogs at the SPCA, which is a national Animal Shelter foundation (now postponed due to school closure). According to our regular plan, we should have done all of the plan by now, but due to the closures of schools and restrictions, they could not be accomplished and postponed until later. While the plan was not completely fulfilled, there were many positive outcomes of this project. For instance, over hundreds of lives (animals mainly) will be affected with an abundance of medical equipment directly, and since this project targets climate action, millions of people will be helped indirectly.

The skills we learned during this project was on managing the connections between many organizations at different sizes. It was very hard to do so at first because we did not have full credibility, yet we gathered some experts like doctors and used reliable information to convince the organizations. Hence, we learned that liability is a skill for communicating. Also, another thing that we have learned about was about the serious problem of medical waste that is usually neglected by a lot of people. From this, we are motivated to take initiatives to reduce medical waste outside of the project as well since we learned how dangerous and toxic, they are compared to normal garbage. Lastly, some of the challenges that we faced during the project was rejection from the organization on our offer of partnering up plus the cautiousness of the vet clinics about the equipment they were being sent. We solved this by consistently persuading the hospitals about how beneficial our project would be, and to the clinics, we proved by showing that the equipment was FDA approved as well as perfectly usable to reassure them.