

Veterinary History and the Veterinary Curriculum (June 2011)

EVERI is supporting moves to raise the prominence of veterinary history within the veterinary curriculum throughout Europe. This seems to be even more important in this year celebrating 250 years of veterinary education.

Its support follows a recent declaration from the Spanish Veterinary History Experts proposing that veterinary history should be a compulsory core subject in the veterinary curriculum. The declaration aims to garner backing from members of the Federation of European Veterinarians to allow consideration of the proposal by the European Commission.

Although EVERI recognizes the importance of veterinary history, following discussions with various representatives of veterinary faculties, the FVE Education group and the OIE ad hoc group on Veterinary Education, EVERI has to realize that the challenges of the modern curriculum probably make it too difficult to establish veterinary history as a formal subject matter. Nevertheless, EVERI is encouraging teachers to incorporate aspects about the history of veterinary medicine within the remit of their subject matter.

The full, English translated text of the Declaration can be read below.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the Governing Body of the University of Extremadura support officially the inclusion of the subject "History of Veterinary Medicine" as a compulsory core subject for the formation of the future veterinary.

DECLARATION of Spanish Veterinary History Experts (March 2011, Veterinary History congress in Coruña, Spain)

Given the importance that the knowledge of the last decades has on the future of professional veterinary science and the need to adjust study plans according to the Bologna Plan, in all university studies where the science is outstanding the humanities, the teaching of the professional history helps to contribute to the humanistic formation. **Therefore we propose the inclusion of the History of Veterinary Medicine in the plans of all the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine of Europe.**

And so to look for the best disposition of professionals and to elevate the image and prestige of veterinarians in society, the study of Veterinary History must be compulsory in the professional curriculum. This can be done in an isolated manner or complementing other subjects (documentation, terminology, scientific method, legislation, deontology, the management of information and others). **The subject will be framed in the last two years of the degree and will involve six credits.**

After an expanded period of organizational deficiency in the lectures, worsened by the lack of and dispersed documentary sources, we believe that the appropriate circumstances currently occur to consolidate this subject. The creation of research and teaching groups that promote the presentation of projects will allow its empowerment. For that, faculties should create teaching jobs with enough complementation to look for efficiency in the teaching.

Teaching of the History of Veterinary Medicine has to be based through the accomplishment of publications and specific projects of research in this field. For it we asked for the adoption of an own code for History of the Veterinary Medicine within the international nomenclature of the UNESCO.

On the grounds of the academic excellence, the improvement of the university formation of the future veterinarians and the social repercussion that it will undoubtedly have in the history and development of Veterinary Sciences, we propose that the above-mentioned points are considered by the European Commission. **Having said that, we require the members of the Federation of European Veterinarians to back the present declaration.**



Spanish Declaration
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Support letter Rector, University Extremadura
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