Inclusion of animal welfare topics in curricula of veterinary medicine colleges in Latin America

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Last year’s Veterinary Medicine Professionals have faced a problem they have been solved gradually, because in some fields of their competences, they require Animal Welfare (AW) knowledge and practices to apply in its professional exercise. Likewise, the Veterinary Education is facing a paradigm shift since AW issues should be included in Veterinary Medicine curricula, topics which were not previously considered.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has played an important role in the worldwide promotion of AW, since it has proposed the inclusion of animal welfare among competences of the veterinary medicine professional (¹).

According to studies carried out in 2010 (²), 34% of Veterinary Medicine colleges in Latin America already included AW topics in its curricula. In 2014 was conducted another study with participation of 100 colleges (³) results indicates that 100% includes it; therefore, in 2015, the Pan American Federation of Veterinary Sciences colleges, organized an international meeting at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, with representatives from 14 countries to harmonize issues of AW that must be included in curricula of Veterinary Medicine colleges in Latin America.

The proposed topics are.

− Role of the veterinarian professional in AW.
− Ethology and motivational systems of behavior.
− Physiological response of stress.
− Evaluation of AW and indicators.
− Five freedoms.
− Physiological aspects of pain.
− Concept of sentience.
− Use of alternatives in veterinary education
− Problems of AW in animal groups
− AW and sustainable animal production.
− Adoption of good practices of production and animal health associated with animal welfare.
− Transport and slaughter of animals.
− National and international legislation.
− AW and bioethics.
− Euthanasia.
− Animals in disasters.
− Risk management.

The agreement of the meeting was to publish this proposal among veterinary medicine colleges in Latin American and, evaluate the results, in two years.

Key words: animal welfare – veterinary medicine education.
References:

