

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STATE OF THE SUBJECT – MATTER “VETERINARY HYGIENE” IN THE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE SCHOOL IN MEXICO

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Background

In this paper are shown in chronological order the subjects – matter related to the science of Veterinary Hygiene, that have been taught from the first curriculum in 1853 to the twelfth, in 1969. From 1853 to 1907 in a Veterinarian's career, from 1907 to 1945 in the Veterinary Medicine occupation and from 1945 to 2002 in the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine profession.

METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

Twelve years before the opening of the Agriculture National College (1853), in 1841 was established the Higher Health Council, an institution in charge of enforcing rules for healthy living in Mexico, it reached its strengthen as a rector body at the end of XIX century, after the promulgation in 1891 of what is known as the First Health Code of the Mexican United States.

In the first curriculum dated 1853 in the veterinarian career, in the second year, was taught “Hippiatrics Hygiene” by Eugenio Bergeyre, a French veterinarian graduated in Tolouse, France, who was contracted to look after the President horses of Antonio Lopez de Santanna. Moreover Mr. Bergeyre was in charge of animal health activities such as meat inspection. In 1853, Hippiatric hygiene and meat inspection were in charge of a veterinarian who worked to the Mexican State, the former activity because equine were needed in the cavalry regiments and the latter due to the fact that it is a state task to promote Public Health through the consumption of animals products from carcass free of injuries or pathological changes. From 1853 to 1864, only 5 graduates got their degree as Veterinarians, very few to fulfill professionals activities, in the army, Foment Ministry and Higher Health Council.

In 1864, during the Second Empire, the first recontextualization of the Pedagogic Discourse took place, the subject matter object of this paper was named “Veterinary hygiene” a step further to cover not only equine species, but other domestic animals such as: bovine, swine, ovine, caprine and poultry.

According to Rivera, 1882:190, in Mexico city in the slaughter house were butchered each month: five thousands four hundred and forty bovine heads; eight thousands seven hundred and eighty ovine, taking care to withdraw sick animals. Once again as a state veterinarian, Jose E. Mota Castelan who graduated in 1862, was in charge of Veterinary Hygiene in the slaughterhouse. The 1864 – 1883 curriculum lasted 29 years, 27 graduates obtained their Veterinary degree.

For the purpose of this dissertation, we joined both the 1883 (third) and 1886 (fourth) curriculum, in the former the subject – matter was named “Domestic Animals Hygiene” while in the latter, its designation was “Veterinary Hygiene” being taught in the seven year of studies.

A chronicle by veterinarian Romulo Escobosa, written in 1896 “Meat Inspection and the Veterinary”, in *Veterinary Illustration* narrated that in the last five years 1889 – 1893, were withdrawn 718 bovine in order to avoid harmful disease to man, from ovine or swine 8,277 animals to keep away from man consumption. Other subject – matters were incorporated related to hygiene field: “Forensic Medicine”. Eighty nine graduates got their degree first as Veterinarians and from 1907 as Veterinarians Medicals.

Between 1870 – 1916, 35 theses related to hygiene and animal health were submitted, related to equine, “Notebook about Veterinary military hygiene” by Jesus Gonzalez; “Army equine hygiene” by Antonio Guerra; “Dairy barns hygiene” by Otilio Herrera and in 1925, “Milk hygiene and analysis” by Salvador Guerra Aceves.

In the fifth curriculum dated 1916, was taught “Health Policy and Legal Medicine”. From 1916 to 1928, thirteen graduates got their degree as Veterinarian Medicals. On the 14th april 1917, was created the Public Health Department and lasted up to 1943.

Once again for the purpose of this paper are joined the 1928 and 1930 curricula. In the former in the second year of studies were united Animal Hygiene and Animal Husbandry; in the four year were taught Veterinary Health Police and Inspection of edibles of Animal Origin, General Hygiene and in the latter: Animal Hygiene and Animal Husbandry, Inspection and Health Police and General Hygiene. From 1928 to 1934, 55 graduates got their degree.

In the 1934 (sixth) curriculum were taught: Livestock Housing, Veterinary Hygiene and Veterinary Health Police, Technology and Inspection of Products of Animal Origin.

Slaughterhouse and meat industries and dairy barns and dairy Industries all related to cleanliness of housing in order to obtain activities that can deal with animals products free from disease germs. Forty six graduates got their degree.

An eight recontextualization of pedagogic discourse took place in 1941, hence in third year was taught “Livestock Housing” in the 4th “Veterinary Hygiene” and in the fifth “Veterinary Legislation and Health Police, dairy barns and dairy industries” and “Slaughterhouse and meat industries”.

Former Public Health Department became Assistance and Health Secretary in 1943. In 1946 an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease was acknowledge and a campaign to fight this epizootic started and in 1954, Mexico was free of this disease. In order to export beef cattle a series of Federal Type Inspection packing stations was built to sell corned beef, since then Veterinarians working as Meat Inspectors belonged to the Livestock and Agriculture Secretary. On the other hand in the slaughterhouses in hundreds of municipalities the inspection is done by Veterinarians working in the Assistance and Health Secretary. From 1941 to 1955 one hundred and ninety two graduates got their degree. Beginning in 1945, of them, twenty four as Animal Husbandry and Veterinarian Medical.

The ninth recontextualization of the pedagogic discourse was done in 1955, therefore in fourth year was taught: Inspection of Products of Animal Origin and in the fifth year: Veterinary Hygiene and Deontology and Veterinary Public Health. In a span of eight years (1955 – 1963) nine hundred and fifty eight graduates got their degree.

In 1963 the tenth recontextualization of the Pedagogic discourse took place. In a simple subject – matter were joined Hygiene, Animal Health, Public Health and Legislation and Inspection of Products of Animal Origin.

At last, in 1969 in the fifth semester, Veterinary Hygiene is taught. Inspection of Products of Animal Origin in 5th semester and in the 8th semester Veterinary Public Health.

Nowadays (2002), in Higher Studies Faculty in the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine career, Veterinary Hygiene subject – matter is taught in the fifth semester, it is divided in 6 issues: Introduction, Statistics, Environment, Environment Cleanliness, Preventative Medicine and Special Hygiene, in this last issue strength is placed in Fisheries, Milking, Meat and Egg Hygiene, explaining the minimum hygienic requirements in the environment systems, housing, people that managed the animals and their by – products as well as the proper use of disinfectants.

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