THE ORIGINS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN EASTERN ASIA: INDIA

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OBJECTIVES
- To make a generic approach to the history of veterinary medicine in India.
- To summarize the most important facts of his history and their main ways of social organization.
- To understand the main influences on Indian medicine. Religion, worship and philosophy.
- To describe of the most important traditional medicine in this country, Ayurveda.
- To know the main animals, their functions and how veterinary medicine had developed.

CASTE SYSTEM

BUDDHISM

It is born the concept of a ahimsa from Karma & Samsara theories.

It rejects the caste system and applies the concept of ahimsa to all living beings. It’s alive medical treatments based on butter, olive oil, honey, ghee and molasses.

JAINISM

It is more extremist than Buddhism. It forbids to eat meat and practice agriculture.

AYURVEDA

- The great three fathers of Ayurveda are Charaka, Susruta and Vagbhata.
- Ayurvedic philosophy is based on the samkhya philosophy of creation.
- According to ayurveda the body is being composed of the following basic concepts:
  - The five elements of life (pancha mahabhutas)
  - The humours (doshas)
  - The seven tissues (dhatus)
  - The three waste products (madas)
  - The gastric fire (agni)
- The disease appears when there is an imbalance of the seven tissues. For optimal health is necessary to rebalance the humors through prevention.

Ayurveda applied to animals.

Horses
- Asvha
- Elephants
- Gaú-Ayurveda
- Cattle
- Go-Ayurveda
- Phytopathology

INDIA & ANIMALS

Conclusions
- The culture, caste system and religion are great influencers in Indian medicine and society.
- The importance of animals in India, has led to the development of Indian veterinary medicine in parallel to human medicine. Even the veterinary hospital was created before human hospital.
- Ayurvedic medicine is still the main medicine of the subcontinent. And it is expanding to the rest of the world.
- Ayurveda has similarity with Chinese medicine, both are holistic. Also it is similar to western medicine, according to the Hippocratic model and the theory of the four humors theory. Due to the contact between both cultures in the past.
- Animals were mainly used as a work, war or food tools, especially horses, elephants and cattle. For these reasons we have more bibliographic material, which talk about management, diseases and treatments of horses, elephants and cattle in the past.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: