Objectives

- Summarize the most important contributions of twelve veterinarians of Catalan history to the profession.
- Try to generate interest on veterinary students by creating a poster for each character and distribute them through the study rooms of the faculty’s library.
- The selection criteria were:

1. Born in Catalonia
2. Veterinarian professional activity between the XIX and XX centuries, and with a veterinary or zootechnic degree.
3. Widest possible range of professional fields: animal health, hygiene and public health, teaching, animal medicine, animal science, etc.
4. With some significant contributions done to the veterinary medicine and/or to science in general.
5. Belonging to both genres, if possible.

The twelve veterinarians

Teaching

Segimon Malats (1750-1826)
Founder and first Director of the first Spanish Veterinary School, in Madrid.

Josep Robert (1831-1920)
Professor of Anatomy, introductor of dissection and author of important Anatomy treaties.

Salvador Castelló (1863-1950)
First specialist in poultry science. Founder of the Real Escuela de Avicultura in Arenys de Mar.

Pere Rossell (1883-1933)
Veterinary zootechnic, docent and politician. Raciologist, working in improvement of autochthonous breeds by livestock contests, conferences, etc.

Zootechnics

Miquel Viñas (1830-1865)
Pioneer of Zootechnics in Catalonia. Founded the first professional veterinary magazine and promoted veterinary associationism.

Francesc Barber (1831-1918)
Founder and first Director of Barcelona’s Zoo. Clinician, taxidermist, naturalist and editor, among other professional activities.

Hygiene and Public Health

Hygiene and Public Health

José Arderius (1841-1923), introductor of carbuncle vaccine in Catalonia. Politician, first President of Girona’s Veterinary College, etc.

Bacteriology

Ramon Turró (1851-1926), Bacteriologist and docent. Director of Barcelona’s Municipal Laboratory and Barcelona’s Veterinary College first President.

Surgery and Small Animals

Miquel Luera (1879-1996)
Small animal medicine pioneer. Founder and President of AVEPA and Surgery Specialist in the Zoo of Barcelona.

Teresa Bonilla (1818-1994)
First Catalan woman who was a veterinarian. She worked in the Municipal Slaughterhouse in Barcelona.

Joaquim Ravetllat (1871-1923)
Important researcher on tuberculosis, developing the “Ravetllat-Pla” serum.

Professional Activity

Miquel Vinas (1830-1865),.jpg
Pioneer of Zootechnics in Catalonia. Founded the first professional veterinary magazine and promoted veterinary associationism.

Francesc Barber (1831-1918),.jpg
Founder and first Director of Barcelona’s Zoo. Clinician, taxidermist, naturalist and editor, among other professional activities.

Francesc Sugrañés (1866-1939),.jpg
Creation of Municipal Board of Veterinarians. President of Barcelona’s Veterinary College in 1914 and 1920.

Pere (1874-1955) and Josep Farreras (1889-1919),.jpg
Founders of “Revista Veterinaria de España” and its Biblioteca, for veterinary knowledge development.

Conclusions

- Despite the classification of veterinarians in different fields made here, most of them developed professional activities in more than one work area.
- Veterinarians from the last two centuries had to struggle with discrimination from a society that didn’t consider them as good as doctors in some common fields such as bacteriology, public health, etc.
- Veterinary medicine in Catalonia grew together with veterinary medicine worldwide, so we can’t understand our history alone.
- Historic background (scientific discoveries, political situation, plagues and epidemics…) had an important role in the Catalan Veterinary Medicine development. The role of veterinarians participating and solving these problems was fundamental.
- Despite the absence of women, the increasing feminization of the profession will guarantee their presence in veterinary medicine history.