Why women study veterinary sciences

Higher empathy
Chemical containment
Higher incomes
Vocation

Objectives
• Understand how women have reinvented the field
• Emphasize how does the gender role effect the profession
• Show the perception of being a veterinary woman

History of veterinary women
In 1899, the Russians Krusewka and Dobrowilskaia were the first women to get a degree in veterinary science.

Maria Cerrato Rodríguez** was the first Spanish veterinarian in 1925. She worked in public health.

Beginning of Feminization of the Veterinary profession

Political and Legislative changes

World War II 1945
Women’s Movement 1960
Equal Employment Opportunity Act 1972
Women’s Education Act 1974

Men exodus
• Men avoid degrees where the proportion of women increase
• Women are devaluated, so their occupations are stigmatized

For each increase of 1% women in vet faculties, 1.7% less men will apply the following year.

In Spain 62% of the professionals are women

In the UAB Faculty of Veterinary Medicine 82% of students are female since 2010.

Current situation

American veterinary women

Female veterinarians in Balearic Islands

8% 1971
59.9% 2019

Spanish female veterinarians in clinical activities

62%
55.3%
50%
16.7%
5%

In 1976, 21% of Spanish veterinarians were women.

2009
68.8%

1 out of 3 female veterinarians are asked if they will ever want children.

Female veterinarians feel disadvantaged towards men when it comes to finding a job*

60% of female veterinarians do not wish to own a practice*

Around 30% of men and women would work part time to raise kids

Conclusions
1. Women have empowered the Veterinary profession.
2. Machismo still remains, shown through job insecurity and the "glass ceiling".
3. To achieve equality, we must get organizational, facilitating and motivating policies in different administrations and companies.

*P<0.05
**María Cerrato Rodríguez recently graduated. Photograph appeared in the Journal of Hygiene y Sanidad Pecuaria. August 1925. n° 80. Volume XV, within the section: news, tips and recipes.