



## The Journey of Veterinary Medicine – The Current Scenario

### K Satish Kumar\*

*Professor and University Head, Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary Science, Rajendranagar, P. V. Narsimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University, Hyderabad, Telangana State, India*

**\*Corresponding Author:** K Satish Kumar, Professor and University Head, Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary Science, Rajendranagar, P. V. Narsimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University, Hyderabad, Telangana State, India.

**DOI:** 10.31080/ASVS.2023.05.0594

**Received:** November 28, 2022

**Published:** January 01, 2023

© All rights are reserved by **K Satish Kumar.**

The veterinary profession is no more a secondary profession for medicine aspirants. The profession that started either to take care of animals that help in hunting or catching the other animals for food or protect the food-producing animals is now a multifaceted profession. There was a period when domesticated animals were not cared for their health by any professional, though they were used for daily routines including food. Dogs were used to catch ancient human prey and horses and mules were used for their transport but no one took care of the health of these lovely creatures till the early 1900s.

Though the horse was the first animal to be tamed and focused on health as they were used for transport and agriculture, the medical skills were first used by the shepherds of the middle east during 9000 BC to treat their animals, particularly the dogs that were used to watch their sheep herds. Gradually primitive humans started domesticating other animals thus giving importance to their health. The first published literature on animal health related to various species made of papyrus was discovered by archaeologists during the 1800s.

Officially it was thought that the veterinary profession in a scientific way has taken its birth in Lyon, France during the year 1760 through the holy hands of Claude Bourgelat. Subsequently, veterinary medicine started its flourish and spread its roots through the birth of another institution in 1791, the London Veterinary College. The establishment of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1863, has changed the face value of veterinary medicine as it was dedicated to the advancement of the profession. After nearly a century, a separate identity was received by veterinary medicine with its inclusion in the FOOD and Drug Administration in 1965.

After nurturing through nearly two decades, veterinary medicine started to take its steps and moved towards development. Globally, the scientific development of veterinary medicine in the form of diagnostics, and medical and surgical approaches has gradually taken its pace over the past 3-4 decades. Not only in well-developed countries but also in developing countries like India, veterinary medicine has established its major branches like large animal, small animal, companion animal, avian and exotic medicine, etc. The development of government veterinary dispensaries and providing facilities helped not only in providing good animal health but also a major source for the progression. The establishment of Veterinary institutes with advanced diagnostic facilities and state of art technologies is another angle in the advancement of veterinary medicine by providing quality education to budding vets. Gradually pet animals have become companion animals for human, moved into our homes and heart and their love and care has compelled their owners to demand a quality and sophisticated medical service. In this scenario, the point of private veterinary clinics was introduced and in many metro cities, they are not inferior to the human hospitals, both in facilities and skill of the veterinarian. Pet clinics are better equipped with digital radiology, ultrasound, MRI, laparoscopy, advanced diagnostic and surgical equipment, and pharmaceuticals, to successfully treat them and keep them alive longer. 30-40 years ago, when auscultation of the heart was a dream, today in India we are even doing pacemaker transplantation. Continuous research in various aspects of veterinary medicine introduced newer treatment protocols like alternative therapies, nano therapy, stem cell therapy, and cancer treatment, thus giving the pets a quality life along with the peace of mind for their owners. Research should not be locked in the labs. Scientific journals are the major source of dissipating knowledge and spreading out

the research findings from the laboratory to the budding vet. The present journals utilize all the modern technology in reaching the global vets within no time but providing quality articles is again a major development during the past couple of years.

Let's hope and believe that the veterinary profession in India too can no longer be a secondary profession... may reach the same heights as human medicine in near future.