

Reflections on future education process in veterinary medicine with special consideration to the public health system

6 Summary

The aim of this work is to provide a critical analysis of attempts at educational reform in the face of changing requirements in various branches of veterinary medicine. Basic proposals are submitted for the solution of the revealed problems. In this connection it is necessary to particularly emphasize the veterinary public health system. Although the various negative consequences for vital sections of the public health system and research are known, it is not given its adequate place in the university education process. While searching for the underlying causes of this problem, the limits of the predominant scientific handling of complex systems are recognised and historically derived.

From the results of a social- situation- and- development- analysis the necessity of a scientifically based holistic approach on education process for solutions to the problems challenging the profession is deduced.

Veterinary medicine has a responsible role to play in society: however, the required measures to achieve this have hitherto not been fulfilled sufficiently by the curriculum as it stands. A university education process in veterinary medicine must be based on the interaction of a dynamic and complex system with the social environment. The true representation of veterinary medicine as a discipline, including its characteristic structures and their relationships, is thus the main objective.

The entire variety of required subject- specific basic knowledge can subsequently be integrated into the developed network. This should provide a solid fundament for postgraduate education, profession- lifelong learning and in-service training.

Basic recommendations for the further extension of attempts at the reformation of veterinary studies are discussed.