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SESSION 8: VETERINARY MEDICINE - FUNDAMENTAL AND PRECLINICAL SCIENCES

SOME ATTITUDES OF THE STUDENTS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND ANIMAL SCIENCE IN SERBIA

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Introduction: Veterinarians and animal scientists belong to professions that are the most responsible for providing welfare of animals. Student attitudes toward animals will influence how they work with animals (and their human counterparts) in their future careers (Hazel *et al.*, 2011; Relić *et al.*, 2011).

Aims: The aim of this study was to compare students of veterinary medicine and animal science in terms of attitudes that point to the level of empathy towards animals and the professional orientation.

Materials and Methods: A total of 243 students of all years of study participated in the survey. The questionnaire consisted of 29 items: 9 demographic questions and 20 questions of Animal Attitude Scale (AAS) (Herzog *et al.*, 2015).

Results: Students of both faculties showed the most similarity in relation to religiosity and nutrition, as well as previous education, experience with animals before the start of studies and the level of empathy towards animals. They differed in responding to the certain questions from AAS related to use of different animal species (e.g. farm animals and companion animals).

Conclusion: Veterinary and animal science curricula for prospective farmed animal practitioners should devote attention to animal welfare, and should be adjusted by the way of presenting to students.

Keywords: *animals, animal science, attitudes, students, veterinary medicine*

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