

Letter to Editor / Editöre Mektup

**A note on the opening date of the İstanbul University Faculty of
Veterinary Medicine**
**İstanbul Üniversitesi Veteriner Fakültesinin açılış tarihi üzerine bir
not**

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Dear Editor,

Since its opening in 1972, the İstanbul University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine had been affiliated to İstanbul University (1). However, after the University had been separated into two in 2018, the Veterinary Faculty was transferred to the new institution named İstanbul University-Cerrahpaşa.¹ After this transfer, the date of the founding of the Veterinary Faculty was changed to 1889 and associated with the founding year of the Civil Veterinary School.

Considering the importance of the issue, Prof. Belgin Sarimehmetoğlu, the Dean of the Ankara University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, entrusted us to prepare a scientific report containing historical evidence. The full text of this report can be found on the website of the Faculty and the summary is given below.

The Military and Civil Veterinary Schools were founded in İstanbul in 1842 and 1889 respectively (2, 3, 4). However, after the Civil Veterinary School was demolished by a major fire in 1920, the two schools were merged as the Veterinary College in 1921.² The Veterinary College was transferred to Ankara as a faculty of the Higher Institute of Agriculture in 1933.³ Thus, the spiritual heritages of the Veterinary College and its roots, the Military and Civil Veterinary Schools, began to live in their new home in Ankara with all their history and memories. When the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was transferred to the Ankara University⁴ in 1948, it became the primary senior Faculty of the University with its history dating back to 1842.

The İstanbul University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was opened in 1972 (1). Then, it was transferred to the İstanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, which was established in 2018 by separation of the İstanbul University into two.¹ After this transfer, the founding date of the Faculty was changed to 1889, the year the Civil Veterinary School was founded. Thus, not only the historical memory of the İstanbul University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has been distorted but one of the historical roots of the Ankara University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was obscured.

Institutions gain historical value with their activities at national and international levels and not by pulling founding dates back. Having made its mark in history many times, the Ankara University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is a single entity with its historical, scientific and institutional identity. Removing a piece of this identity means interference with its continued existence. Such an attempt to distort history will invariably be judged by science and history.

¹ Law Nr: 7141, T.C. Resmî Gazete (The Official Gazette of the Republic of Turkey, Date: 18/05/2018, Nr: 30425).

² Meclis-i Vükela Mazbatası (Date: 09/05/1921), Arch.Seq. Nr: 4603, Rec. Nr: 255/66, The Ottoman Archives of the General Directorate of State Archives of the Prime Minister's Office.

³ Law Nr: 2291, T.C. Resmî Gazete (The Official Gazette of the Republic of Turkey, Date: 20/06/1933, Nr: 2432).

⁴ Law Nr: 5234, T.C. Resmî Gazete (The Official Gazette of the Republic of Turkey, Date: 07/07/1948, Nr: 6951).

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