

## Closing Ceremony of the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Master in Animal Law

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Friday 16<sup>th</sup> of June saw the Closing Ceremony of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Animal Law and Society Master, attended by professors and alumni both past and current. The ceremony entailed speeches by Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law Carles Górriz, Alumni Ines Real (Portugal, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.) and Sara Hebrard (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.), course coordinator Dr. Teresa Giménez-Candela, as well as various speeches presented by the newly graduated students of the presencial course. The presentation of diplomas represented the culmination of hard work and dedicated effort in the form of weekly classes, monthly essay submissions, two semestral examinations and the expected completion of a Master Thesis. The success of the ceremony reflected nothing less than the success of each and every student that studied and achieved, and every professor that taught and inspired. It celebrated the union of individuals with vastly different lives, backgrounds and experiences. The mission of working for the sake of animals brought together like-minded people from all across Europe, Central and South America, all of whom share a similar vision despite having grown up in vastly contrasting cultures with diverse traditions and values. It also drew together people of different ages and experiences, from graduate students to experienced professionals.

The speeches given by the professors congratulated students on their achievement, urging them to continue on with the same interest and passion for animals and animal law in the future. Speeches given by students varied in content, ranging from praises of gratitude to professors and fellow students, to emphasising the importance of individual actions in helping the cause for animals, to a heartfelt soliloquy enlightening the audience on on-going political struggle. Through speech, the students were able to convey to others their feelings not only on the course itself, but on their personal thoughts about animal treatment in our society, on hopes and aspirations for the future, and on the beliefs held most deeply by future pioneers of the movement.

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The only elements of the course that remain are the Internship and the Master Thesis. This final project must be completed by and defended in September and will be achieved only through detailed and focused study, research and analysis of a specific theme of animal law. However in spite of the remaining project, this ceremony signals the end of a significant phase of life, and the commencement of a new one - a sending off into the world with a newly accumulated wealth of specialist knowledge to propel each graduate forward along whichever career path they may decide to follow.