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European Association
of Establishments for Veterinary Education

RE-VISITATION REPORT

To the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

On 14 - 16 March 2022

By the Re-visitation Team:

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Contents of the Re-visitation Report

Introduction

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) (called the Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) in this Report) was assessed by the EAEVE Visitation Team in May 2019. As well as a number of areas that were commended, ECOVE identified several areas for improvement. One of these areas was defined as a Major Deficiency:

- *ECOVE found non-compliance with Sub-standard 5.2 due to an insufficient number of horses being treated at the clinic, which in turn was insufficient to provide adequate clinical training*

In addition, ECOVE identified three Minor Deficiencies:

- *ECOVE found partial compliance with Sub-standard 5.1. due to insufficient numbers of companion animal cadavers for pathomorphology training.*

- *ECOVE found partial compliance with Sub-standards 4.6 and 4.12. due to insufficient implementation and control of student access to the faculty's facilities, the lack of designated areas for students to change protective coats and the general lack of security provisions in English.*

1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies

1.1. Major Deficiency 1: *Non-compliance with Sub-standard 5.2 due to an insufficient number of horses being treated at the clinic, which in turn was insufficient to provide adequate clinical training*

1.1.1. Findings

Large road construction works which had a negative impact on horse transport to the VEE (and thereby the number of horses seen at the Horse Clinic), have been finalized during mid-2021. This good infrastructure has improved access to the Horse Clinic.

A change of the University structure (2021) has resulted in the Department of Large Animal Diseases (including the Horse Clinic) with its focus only on practical training of undergraduates, whereas the Centre of Translational Medicine is conducting specialized scientific research.

In the academic year 2020/2021 a total of 153 horses (of which 87 had inpatient treatment and 66 were treated in the on-call veterinary service) were admitted for both surgery and internal medicine. Since January 2021 an on-call veterinary service is operational in order to increase the number of horse patients. It has resulted in 220 horses treated in the Horse Clinic since then.

1.1.2. Comments

- Compared to the academic years 2018/2019 (57) and 2019/2020 (40) there is a substantial increase in the number of horses available for teaching
- In addition, the establishment of the on-call veterinary service is further raising the number of equine patients.

1.1.3. Suggestions

None.

1.1.4. Decision

The Major Deficiency has been fully corrected.

2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies

2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: *Partial compliance with Sub-standard 5.1. due to insufficient numbers of companion animal cadavers for pathomorphology training.*

2.1.1. Findings

The VEE has built an additional large cold storage at the Small Animal Clinic for cadavers. Cadavers are used for surgery and ophthalmology training, and to supplement the number of necropsies which are performed by students during the pathomorphology training.
Students have to perform 4 necropsies (of which 2 are permitted during EPT under supervision of a licensed DVM) on at least 2 different species before admission to the pathology exam.
In the academic year 2020/2021 the number of companion animal necropsies increased to 275 (134 dogs and 141 cats).

2.1.2. Comments

- The number of necropsies has substantially increased by introducing the additional cold storage for cadavers compared to previous years (2018/2019: 106, 2019/2020: 94).

2.1.3. Suggestions

None.

2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: *Partial compliance with Sub-standards 4.6 and 4.12. due to insufficient implementation and control of student access to the faculty's facilities, the lack of designated areas for students to change protective coats and the general lack of security provisions in English.*

2.2.1. Findings

A locker system has been introduced for students, allowing them to leave personal belongings and to access facilities without hand luggage. They now can change into protective clothing inside the facilities and before entering the laboratories or the necropsy room. The system was approved by the OHS Inspectorate.

With respect to operating theatres, access is now restricted to authorized staff or students under supervision, and only after changing shoes and getting into protective clothing. Preparation of surgery patients and monitoring after surgery takes place in a separate area.
Totems with information in Polish and English have been placed on campus, manuals in all facilities were supplemented with English chapters, signatures on doors have bilingual labels, and bilingual biosafety instructions and pictograms were placed on entrance doors of buildings and departments. Finally, the Dean has appointed a new Information Policy Coordinator. Students are also informed through the VEE website and via social media.

2.2.2. Comments

- Information on biosafety procedures is now adequately displayed
- The introduced measures have improved the access of students to the VEE facilities to an appropriate standard.

2.2.3. Suggestions

None.

3. ESEVT Indicators

3.1. Findings

	Raw data from the 2 full academic years excluding AY 2019/ 2020	2020/2021	2018/19	Mean
1	n° of FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training	182.5	175	178.75
2	n° of undergraduate students	1242	1214	1228.00
3	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training	137.5	126	131.75
4	n° of students graduating annually	173	184	178.5
5	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training	63	69.5	66.25
6	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	1052.5	1038.5	1045.5
7	n° of hours of clinical training	1087.5	1087.5	1087.5
8	n° of hours of FSQ & VPH training	550	535	542.5
9	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	190	190	190
10	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally	7911	8205	8058
11	n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally	456	458	457
12	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally	153	57	105
13	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic patients seen intra-murally	253	311	282.0
14	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally	932	889	910.5
15	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally	1061	1517	1289.0
16	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally	95	161	128.0
17	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds	171	238	204.5
18	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units	26	27	26.5
19	n° of companion animal necropsies	275	106	190.5
20	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies	21	69	45.0
21	n° of equine necropsies	46	14	30.0
22	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies	2315	3102	2708.5
23	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training	52	45	48.5
24	n° of PhD graduating annually	6	10	8.0

	Calculated Indicators from raw data	Establishment values	Median values[1]	Minimal values[2]	Balance[3]
I1	n° of FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate students	0.146	0.16	0.13	0.020
I2	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.738	0.87	0.59	0.148
I3	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.371	0.94	0.57	-0.195
I4	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	1045.500	905.67	595.00	450.500
I5	n° of hours of clinical training	1087.500	932.92	670.00	417.500
I6	n° of hours of FSQ & VPH training	542.500	287.00	174.40	368.100
I7	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	190.000	68.00	28.80	161.200
I8	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	45.143	70.48	42.01	3.134
I9	n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	2.560	2.69	0.46	2.097
I10	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0.588	5.05	1.30	-0.710
I11	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	1.580	3.35	1.55	0.035
I12	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	5.101	6.80	0.22	4.878
I13	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	7.221	15.95	6.29	0.927
I14	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0.717	2.11	0.60	0.122
I15	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	1.146	1.33	0.55	0.598
I16	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually	0.148	0.12	0.04	0.104
I17	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	1.067	2.07	1.40	-0.333
I18	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0.252	2.32	0.97	-0.718
I19	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0.168	0.30	0.09	0.075
I20	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	15.174	2.05	0.69	14.481
I21*	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.272	0.20	0.06	0.209
I22*	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually	0.045	0.15	0.09	-0.043

3.2. Comments

The small number of pig carcasses subjected to necropsies is closely related to the legal restrictions in Poland, as there have been outbreaks of African Swine Fewer (ASF) in Poland from the time immediately preceding the Visitation to the present day. The ASF has been a major problem for the pig industry in Poland for the last seven years. Factors, like long-distance ASF spread to new regions of the country, are mainly caused by human activity and a lack of awareness of potential disease among pig herds. The only way to reduce the spread of ASF is through strict compliance with biosecurity rules. Despite many efforts to adhere to the sanitary regulations the disease occurred in a number of regions. Although it started in eastern Poland, it rapidly occurred also in the western part of the country, close to the German border. As a result, restrictions on access to pig farms are in place. Extramurally classes are only possible in areas not affected by the ASF epidemic. In other cases, it is not possible to enter the affected area. An up-to-date map of areas covered by various restrictions is available on the official government website https://bip.wetgiw.gov.pl/asf/mapa/. Nevertheless, during this period, practical classes were conducted on pig farms.

The reduction in the number of necropsies in this species resulted in the I18 Indicator. Since the current situation is determined by outer factors independent of the VEE's activity, an improvement for the related Indicator is not expected until the ASF epidemic is extinguished.

Following the Visitation Team's comments about the lack of a global strategy for sourcing animal material and the suboptimal number of ruminant necropsies as well as absence of small ruminants seen extramurally, the VEE has taken following corrective steps:

1) Following the regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (Animal by-products Regulation) some agreements were signed with official veterinarians regarding the possibility of using ruminant carcasses for teaching purposes as a necropsy material. Since Article 17 of the regulation mentioned above states that the Competent Authority may, by way of derogation from Articles 12, 13 and 14, authorise the use of animal by-products and derived products for exhibition, artistic activities, diagnostic, educational or research purposes under conditions that ensure the control of risks to human and animal health. Following agreements, cattle carcasses may be transferred to the University for teaching purposes. The VEE bears the cost of their transport and disposal by authorised company after necropsy. An increase in the number of ruminant necropsies performed intramurally is expected to be seen in the near future.
2) Due to the shortage of small ruminants, the VEe in cooperation with the Institute of Veterinary Medicine and the Institute of Animal Sciences took care of the sheep flock located in the *Experimental Farm Żelazna*, located 90 kilometres from Warsaw. There are 200 sheep of the local breed and a flock of 36 goats. The VEE participates in the costs of maintaining the farm, which beside a commercial use is also a teaching facility where students have the opportunity to do practical training on small ruminants. Due to the financial support by the VEE and two Institutes, the number of animals is expected to increase in the coming years.
3) In the current curriculum the elective subject *Diseases of small ruminants* was introduced.

3.3. Suggestions for improvement

None.

4. Conclusions

The single Major Deficiency identified by ECOVE in 2019 has now been fully corrected. In addition, the three Minor Deficiencies identified by ECOVE in 2019 have also been corrected.

Decision of ECOVE

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiency identified after the full Visitation on 13 – 17 May 2019 had been corrected.

The Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences is therefore classified as holding the status of: **ACCREDITATION**.