FINAL REPORT AS ISSUED BY ECOVE ON 17 JUNE 2020

European Association
of Establishments for Veterinary Education

RE-VISITATION REPORT

To the Veterinary Faculty of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

On 09 – 11 March 2020

By the Re-visitation Team:

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Contents of the Re-visitation Report

Introduction

An ESEVT Visitation was undertaken in November 2018 to the Veterinary Faculty (VFB) of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB).
Following this Visitation, and during the factual correction phase of the Visitation Report, the VFB disagreed with some of the statements included in this draft report. Nevertheless, the draft report was sent to the European Committee of Veterinary Education (ECOVE), who in late May 2019 identified a number of deficiencies including a single major deficiency and five minor deficiencies. Despite these eventual deficiencies, the Visitation Team in 2018 had acknowledged that the design of the veterinary study programme was firmly based on subject-related and transferable competences, and as such was compliant with the then current ESEVT Day One Competences. Moreover, the Visitation Team praised the enthusiasm of the staff for education as well as the overall strength of the Quality Assurance System in the VFB.

The deficiencies within the final ECOVE report were:

MAJOR DEFICIENCY:
Non-compliance with Substandards 3.5, 4.8, 4.14 and 5.2, because of the absence of bovine intramural clinical services and insufficiency of extramural bovine clinical services, especially emergency services (on-call services 24/7), which results in the insufficient hands-on clinical training in bovine patients under the full supervision of academic staff, who are formally trained to teach, to assess and involved with scientific research, and subsequently non acquisition of some Day One Competences by all undergraduate students.

MINOR DEFICIENCIES:

- Partial compliance with Substandard 3.5, because of insufficient training on methods to control hazards in the food chain (HACCP).
- Partial compliance with Substandard 4.7, because of inappropriate facilities for gait analysis in horses.
- Partial compliance with Substandard 4.15, because of inadequate organisation of students' transportation for extramural activities.
- Partial compliance with Substandard 5.1, because of:
  - sub-optimal number of companion animal necropsies
  - sub-optimal number of healthy and diseased horses
  - absence of a visit to a poultry slaughterhouse for all students.

- Partial compliance with Substandard 9.3, because not all staff involved in education receive formal training in teaching and assessment.

Within their RSER, the Establishment thanked the 2018 Visitation Team for their comments and suggestions, which have been useful in identifying areas for improvement. In addition, both the strategic plan and the Internal Quality Assurance System of the VFB have been very helpful for the implementation of measures aimed at addressing the shortages detected during the evaluation process.

The RSER presents the relevant information on the actions carried out to correct the major deficiency as well as actions designed to improve the minor deficiencies.

1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies

1.1. Major Deficiency:

Non-compliance with sub-standards 3.5, 4.8, 4.14 and 5.2, because of the absence of bovine intramural clinical services and insufficiency of extramural bovine clinical services, especially emergency services (on-call services 24/7), which results in the insufficient hands-on clinical training in bovine patients under the full supervision of academic staff, who are formally trained to teach, to assess and involved with scientific research, and subsequently non acquisition of some Day One Competences by all undergraduate students.

1.1.1. Findings

The intramural and extramural clinical training of the students has been improved by:

- A 100% increase has been introduced through adding a new 8-hour shift in the bovine ambulatory clinical service for all students. A comprehensive visit (with students) was undertaken by the Re-visitation Team to one of the farms utilised by the ambulatory service.
- A member of the academic staff has been appointed as the coordinator for the bovine clinical service. This individual is responsible for the subjects taught, the training and evaluation of the part-time academic staff that teach this course.
- Introduction of a student logbook to ensure all students meet the day-one skills required.
- Acquisition and use of bovine models (a dystocia and theriology model) to allow for ample training and improvement of hands-on skills of the students.
- The use of a dairy farm computer simulator to teach students to evaluate production data and study the effects of different scenarios under a herd health management programme.

1.1.2. Comments

- This visit confirmed the suitability of such visits for hands-on clinical training in bovine patients. During the visit, the students were under the direct control of an experienced clinician who was a member of the ancillary group of experienced veterinarians appointed and trained by the Establishment for such clinical training.
- During the Re-visitation, the Team was able to meet with the coordinator and discuss and confirm the enhanced clinical bovine experience. It was also confirmed that students had the chance to follow-up on any clinical cases.

- The Re-visitation Team met up with groups of students, and after inspection of their logbooks confirmed the suitability of these logbooks for recording their experiences of clinical work on bovine cases.
- The new bovine models have been purchased from specialised suppliers in Canada and are in the process of being fully established.
- The dairy farm computer simulator to teach students to evaluate production data under different scenarios (under a herd health management programme) was introduced and explained by the staff members who have successfully established these scenarios.

1.1.3. Suggestions
None.

1.1.4. Decision of the Re-visitation Team
The Major Deficiency has been fully corrected

2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies
2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: Partial compliance with Substandard 3.5, because of insufficient training on methods to control hazard in the food chain (HACCP).

2.1.1. Findings
- The teaching of the principle of HACCP has been added mainly to the two courses taught during the fourth year: *Food Safety and Zoonosis* and *Food Inspection and Hygiene*. The skills acquired in the 4th year are later reinforced during the 5th year through the subject *Animal and Public Health Rotation.*
- Students are then required to work on and solve different cases related to practical examples of HACCP implementation, for instance evaluating hygienic standards in the food industry, shelf-life determination of products, food-borne outbreaks and inspections of slaughterhouses.
- The acquired knowledge and skills can be applied by the students during their shifts in slaughterhouses.

2.1.2. Comments
- The Re-visitation Team confirmed the extra teaching set out in the RSER.
- The extra shifts in slaughterhouses were confirmed as occurring after the full HACCP training.

2.1.3. Suggestions
None.

2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: Partial compliance with Substandard 4.7, because of inappropriate facilities for gait analysis in horses.

2.2.1. Findings
- The Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) has planned to level and resurface the larger of the two existing paddocks.

- Where veterinarians require a mounted examination of patients, the VTH has recently signed an agreement with the equestrian centre Can Caldés, which offers excellent riding facilities.

2.2.2. Comments

- The Re-visitation Team confirmed that both the planning and financing of appropriate facilities for gait analysis in horses is in place.

2.2.3. Suggestions

None.

2.3. Minor Deficiency 3: Partial compliance with Substandard 4.15, because of inadequate organisation of students' transportation for extramural activities.

2.3.1. Findings

- The Veterinary Faculty of Barcelona (VFB) has allocated more funding for students' transport.

2.3.2. Comments

- After some detailed talks with both the Establishment and Rectorate, it is clear that this student transportation remains a problem, due to difficulties in reimbursing students for their transportation costs, insurance etc.
- However, the Rectorate is urgently seeking a solution to this situation.
- It is important that the students themselves keep pressure on the university management to come up with a solution.

2.3.3. Suggestions

None.

2.4. Minor Deficiency 4: Partial compliance with Substandard 5.1, because of
- sub-optimal number of companion animal necropsies
- sub-optimal number of healthy and diseased horses
- absence of visits to a poultry slaughterhouse for all students

2.4.1. Findings

- The VFB has allocated more funding and started a programme to motivate pet owners to donate their deceased pets.
- An agreement with cat shelter to donate deceased cat to increase necropsies
- The VFB has 2 horses and 11 Catalan donkeys for teaching purposes on healthy animals.
- All equine referral patients are fully used to give students the opportunity to examine the patients and to establish a differential diagnosis.
- The visit to a poultry slaughterhouse will be included and its implementation is expected to be carried out during the academic year 2020/2021 at the latest.

2.4.2. Comments

- The VFB in coordination with the VTH has started a programme to motivate pet owners to donate their deceased pets.
- An agreement with a cat shelter has been reached to donate deceased cats to increase necropsies.
- This agreement is the first of additional agreements and in addition, increases the neutering possibilities for students.
- There was obviously some confusion between the Visitation Team and the Establishment as to the number of equines available for teaching purposes on healthy animals.
- All equine referral patients are fully used to give students the opportunity to examine the patients and to establish a differential diagnosis.
- The visit to a poultry slaughterhouse will now be included and its implementation is expected to be carried out during the academic year 2020/2021.

2.4.3. Suggestions

None.

2.5. Minor Deficiency 5: Partial compliance with Substandard 9.3, because of not all staff involved in education receive formal training in teaching and assessment.

2.5.1. Findings

- The Veterinary Faculty of Barcelona (VFB) has been implementing a new strategy to facilitate the training on teaching and assessment of all part-time staff employed by the UAB.
- Two training sessions for all part-time teachers every year

2.5.2. Comments

- The Establishment has been implementing a new strategy to facilitate the training on teaching and assessment for all part-time staff and those associated with extramural activities.
- Two training sessions for all part-time teachers are planned for every year
- The first such course was held in February this year.

2.5.3. Suggestions

- A coordinator should be nominated to oversee the training and to ensure that all teachers involved in the extramural courses are participating in the training for teaching and assessment.

3. ESEVT Indicators
3.1. Findings

	Raw data from the last 3 full academic years	18/19	17/18	16/17	Mean
1	n° of FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training	103.74	102	104.25	103.3
2	n° of undergraduate students	606	590	615	603.7
3	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training	76.80	76.80	78.50	77.4
4	n° of students graduating annually	100	121	128	116.3
5	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training	189	189	186	188
6	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	758	758	743	753
7	n° of hours of clinical training	686	686	674	682
8	n° of hours of FSQ & VPH training	570	570	570	570
9	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	38	38	38	38
10	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally	20995	20046	18628	19889.7
11	n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally	0	0	0	0
12	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally	402	505	381	429.3
13	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic patients seen intra-murally	1261	1307	1002	1190
14	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally	507	525	579	537
15	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally	955	860	813	876
16	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally	23	37	21	27
17	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds	184	187	175	182
18	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units	121	106	87	104.7
19	n° of companion animal necropsies	184	162	163	169.7
20	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies	232	393	252	292.3
21	n° of equine necropsies	11	25	17	17.7
22	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies	248	312	258	272.7
23	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training	29.25	29.25	28.75	29.1
24	n° of PhD graduating annually	35	39	37	37

Calculated Indicators from raw data		VFB values	Median values	Minimal values	Balance
I1	n° of FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate students	0.17	0.16	0.13	0.04
I2	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.67	0.87	0.59	0.07
I3	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	1.61	0.94	0.57	1.05
I4	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	753	905.67	595	158
I5	n° of hours of clinical training	682	932.92	670	12
I6	n° of hours of FSQ & VPH training	570	287	174.4	395.6
I7	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	38	68	28.80	9.2
I8	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	170.97	70.48	42.01	128.96
I9	n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0	2.69	0.46	-0.46
I10	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	3.69	5.05	1.3	2.39
I11	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	10.23	3.35	1.55	8.68
I12	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	4.61	6.80	0.22	4.39
I13	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	7.53	15.95	6.29	1.24
I14	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0.23	2.11	0.6	-0.36
I15	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	1.56	1.33	0.55	1.02
I16	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually	0.90	0.12	0.04	0.85
I17	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	1.46	2.07	1.4	0.06
I18	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	2.51	2.32	0.97	1.54
I19	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0.15	0.3	0.09	0.06
I20	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	2.34	2.05	0.69	1.65
I21	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.25	0.2	0.06	0.19
I22	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually	0.318	0.15	0.09	0.23

3.2. Comments

- Compared to the 2018 FV Report, the number of ruminant and pig patients seen extramurally has increased. This increase is due to the logbook introduction in the bovine ambulatory services, which has allowed an accurate recording of the bovine patients attended by students in.
- A further increase in bovine patients attended by the ambulatory clinical services is expected as a result of the doubling in teaching time described above.
- The Establishment claims that the result obtained in indicator I13 (nº of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extramurally), largely compensates for the value of indicator I9 (nº of individual ruminant and pig patients seen intramurally) demonstrating the strength of the ambulatory clinical services provided by the Establishment.
- The minor deficiency related to necropsies of companion animals has been corrected, as shown by the shift towards a positive value of indicator I17. As mentioned above, this indicator is expected to further increase due to the ongoing series of agreements signed with cat shelters.
- For the present academic year, the indicator covering the nº of FTE academic staff and nº of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training, is expected to increase due to the additional part-time teachers hired by the UAB for the bovine ambulatory clinical services.
- A further projected rise will be in the nº of hours of practical (non-clinical) training, as a result of the new sessions using the dairy farm simulator.

3.3. Suggestions

None.

4. Conclusions

The Major Deficiency identified during the full Visitation in 2018 has been fully corrected.

Decision of ECOVE

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiency identified in 2018 had been corrected.

The Veterinary Faculty of the Autonomous University of Barcelona is therefore classified as holding the status of: **ACCREDITATION**.