

**European Association
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**



RE-VISITATION REPORT

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

On 26 – 28 October 2021

By the Re-visitation Team:

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Introduction

The EAEVE full Visitation (FV) to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Life Sciences, Lublin (referred to as Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) in this Report) was originally scheduled for 19-23 October 2020, but had to be postponed due to the COVID-situation, and finally took place on 19-23 April 2021 as a hybrid Visitation in accordance with the ESEVT SOP 2016. During the Visitation, the Visitation Team identified some deficiencies. Based on the Visitation Report, ECOVE considered two of them major, and nine minor, thus the VEE was not accredited (May 2021).

The VEE made efforts to make the necessary corrections in a very short time and asked for a Re-Visitation (RV) already at the beginning of the following semester. The Re-visitation Self Evaluation Report (R-SER) was submitted on 23 September 2021 describing in detail the amendments and corrections performed in order to make up for the deficiencies. The R-SER was written in agreement with the SOP 2016. The follow-up on the major and minor deficiencies was done by the VEE under difficult conditions due to COVID-19.

The Re-Visitation took place in a professional and cordial manner.

The ESEVT SOP 2016 is valid for this Re-visitation.

1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies

1.1. Major Deficiency 1

Non-compliance with Substandard 3.5 because of insufficient clinical training in food producing animals and insufficient integrated approach of herd health management, 'From Farm to Fork' and 'One Health' concepts.

1.1.1. Findings

In order to eliminate this deficiency the VEE has made curricular changes which are effective from October 1, 2021.

So far as practical training in food-producing animals is concerned, since the VEE is situated in a large town, and owners are not willing to take their large animals to the campus, efforts must be made to provide students with enough clinical cases. On the one hand, there is an ambulatory clinic which makes on-call service to nearby farms possible, and teachers take students with them. Practical classes on farms (at present cattle and sheep farms, and planned cooperation with an experimental farm for pigs) in the subject "Diseases of farm animals" are included which provide opportunities for students to observe and examine healthy and sick farm animals and acquire practical skills under the supervision of VEE staff. The cases are recorded

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in the electronic patient system (see also 2.8), while student involvement can be traced in students' logbooks and practical records.

The VEE has applied for permission to use animals at slaughterhouses to practise clinical examination and rectal palpation of cows. During the RV it was re-iterated by the VEE management that permission from the Official Veterinary Officer is on its way and is expected soon. The visits are planned for semester IX, 2 or 3 times 3 hours per student under the supervision of a teacher.

With regard to pigs, the VEE is waiting for the decision of the Official Veterinary Officer to be able to provide students with live animals until the ASF situation allows farm visits. Until sanitary measures allow live contact with the animals, students watch video presentations on the husbandry and health care of swine under the supervision of academic staff.

There are plans, and substantial financial resources allocated for the VEE for a skills lab to supplement the present facilities scattered around the different departments and clinics. It will be opened at the end of 2021 and will include: 2 artificial cows for parturition, 1 artificial horse for colic problems, 5 fantoms for pregnancy diagnosis in cows and mares and insemination procedures, 2 fantoms with access to veins, plus several items for small animals. The Team was presented with delivery lists of extensive equipment ordered for the skills labs.

To enhance the integration of topics related to the "From Farm to Fork" and "One Health" approach, the VEE has revised the curriculum and introduced a new obligatory subject "Herd health management" and two electives "Practical aspects of rational antimicrobial therapy in animals" and "Current problems of modern buiatry". The content of "Milk hygiene" and "Hygiene of food of animal origin" have also been changed accordingly (see Attachment 1. and 2. of the R-SER).

Besides the customary farm and slaughterhouse visits, students will participate in a diversity of extramural and external practical activities (participation at inspection of dairy farm, visit to milk production units, teaching in laboratory analytics of meat, visits to dairy and meat processing plants, cooperation with the National Veterinary Institute for meat analytics) which are well prepared and funded at theoretical classes. The One Health approach is developed further in the subjects "Public health protection", "Food hygiene of animal origin", and "Herd health management".

1.1.2. Comments

As long as there is a considerable problem with ASF, it is not possible to bring students in contact with pigs at farm level due to official restrictions.

The VEE has made considerable efforts to provide for enough practical clinical training opportunities for students. However, when involving animals in slaughterhouses in clinical practices, e. g. rectal palpation, special care must be taken of safety and animal welfare aspects. Clinical practices performed at slaughterhouses are conducted under the supervision of teachers in animal reproduction. The skills lab will provide further opportunities for students to practice large animal clinical procedures.

The integrated approach of "One Health" is emphasized throughout the curriculum and in the introduction of "Herd health management" and two optional subjects, and the increased and

diversified practical activities planned will also contribute to the development of the competences of students. It is commendable that so many departments and individuals have taken part in the curriculum development with respect to a stronger emphasis on One Health.

1.1.3. Suggestions

From a QA-point of view it should be documented how many times single animals are used for rectal palpation training in slaughterhouses to ensure fulfilment of standard animal welfare regulations.

The multidisciplinary subject “Herd Health” should include non-ruminant species, especially pigs, as well. It would be reasonable to reduce obligatory readings for the subject.

A continuous organic integration of the “One Health” approach should be a priority for the next curriculum revision.

1.1.4. Decision

The VEE has rectified the Major Deficiency and is compliant with Substandard 3.5.

1.2. Major Deficiency 2

Non-compliance with Substandard 4.7 because of inadequate facilities, equipment and biosecurity and safety measures in the building (n°10) currently used by the Department and Clinic of Animal Reproduction.

1.2.1. Findings

All teaching and clinical activities have ceased in building no. 10, and have moved to the new clinical complex. Building no. 10 now serves only as staff rooms, offices. The old stables were also closed.

The allocation and capacity of the new facilities at the disposal of the Department and Clinic of Animal Reproduction at buildings A and B of the VTH is detailed on pages 6 and 7 of the R-SER. These include: *in building A* 3 rooms for group work, 2 operating blocks shared with the Clinic of Animal Surgery, 1 room for complicated labour of large animals, 1 room for semen collection from stallions, 1 room for milking, 4 rooms for andrology, 1 endocrine laboratory, 1 immunological laboratory, 1 mammary gland laboratory; *in building B*: 1 laboratory (ultrasound), 1 room for pharmacy, 1 andrological laboratory, 1 room for animals, 1 operational tract for small animals.

Animals are also located at the animal housing facilities of the new clinical building.

The facilities underwent an official occupational health and safety inspection, and all necessary amendments were provided for.

1.2.2. Comments

The new VTH, which provides state-of-the-art environment, facilities and equipment conducive for clinical work and training is now housing all the related departments, thus the Department and Clinic of Animal Reproduction is integrated better into the clinical workflow. It is possible to use the excellent resources (e. g. operating units, laboratories) more efficiently, and students learn and gain practical experiences at an up-to-date clinic.

1.2.3. Suggestions

None.

1.2.4. Decision

The VEE has rectified the Major Deficiency and is compliant with Substandard 4.7.

2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies

2.1. Minor Deficiency 1

Partial compliance with Substandard 1.5 because of suboptimal organisational structure with numerous departments and sub-departments, which may negatively affect the cohesion of the study programme, the interdisciplinary collaborations and the optimal use of facilities and equipment

2.1.1. Findings

Though there has been some organisational change (the number of subdepartments has changed from 13 to 12), it is essentially the same. The ULS statute states that an institute must cover at least two disciplines with its research activities. Since the VEE performs research only in veterinary science, it is impossible to establish institutes.

At the same time, there is much cooperation between the departments and subdepartments in teaching interdisciplinary subjects and performing research with the shared use of laboratory expertise, facilities, and equipment.

2.1.2. Comments

The situation with division of departments is part of the traditional structure in the VEE, and the Team did not hear any wishes to change it. The cooperation between the departments is very straightforward and several functional committees, and common research projects support and enhance the cooperation.

2.1.3. Suggestions

None.

2.2. Minor Deficiency 2

Partial compliance with Substandard 2.1 because of suboptimal public funding, which doesn't sufficiently take into account the higher cost of veterinary training when compared to other professions

2.2.1. Findings

The budget of the VEE comes mainly from the central budget allocated by the Rector according to an algorithm taking into account factors such as the number of staff, the number of students, doctoral students, internationalization and education cost factor. Since 2020 the VEE's share of the budget includes the increased (3.5) education cost factor.

Further to this the rector has allocated considerable funds for the renovation of teaching and clinical rooms in 2020 and 2021.

The VEE is constantly applying for funds to the National Science Centre, the National Centre for Research and Development, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Marshal's Office,

etc. In 2021 693,144 € external funds have been raised, most of which is a targeted grant for development of the Skills Lab.

The new VTH offers improved veterinary services which are expected to generate more profits. According to the Rector's ordinance, 4% of the revenues from clinical activities will be used by faculty authorities.

2.2.2. Comments

Though it is mentioned that the increased (3.5) key was used for educational costs, no increase can be seen, and the balance stays negative although to a much smaller extent than before.

It is also mentioned that the good cooperation between the Faculty and the Rector has improved the financial position of the VEE. However, subjective factors should not have an impact on the financing of the VEE.

Clinical revenues are used as follows: 10% goes to the Rector for "indirect costs", 45% goes to the clinic which has earned the income, and 45% goes to the personnel involved. The VEE would like to have 4% of the indirect costs (4/10 of the percentage deducted for the rector's part) to cover expenses such as subscription of the Klinik3000 system, manure and carcass disposal, etc.

Considerable effort is used for raising external funds. Together with the other Polish VEEs, they also try to increase the awareness of the Ministry regarding the special funding requirements of veterinary training.

2.2.3. Suggestions

None.

2.3. Minor Deficiency 3

Partial compliance with Substandard 3.5 because of suboptimal training in some subjects, i.e. anaesthesiology and analytical chemistry in food technology

2.3.1. Findings

The so far integrated subject will be divided into general surgery and veterinary anaesthesiology with 2 ECTS and 25 hours each. Change of the curriculum will be introduced from the academic year 2021/22. The knowledge gained in veterinary anaesthesiology is incorporated and implemented in blocks including surgery, dentistry, orthopaedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, diagnostic imaging, and in clinical rotations.

Analytical chemistry has been taught so far as a part of food technology and included the basic laboratory methods related to food inspection. The methods will include residue detection as well, and the practical training of students will be done in cooperation with the National Veterinary Research Institute of Puławy. There are plans for establishing a new laboratory for the Department of Food Hygiene of Animal Origin.

2.3.2. Comments

Curricular changes provide a good opportunity for more thorough and convertible competence development in the field of anaesthesiology and analytical chemistry matching the requirements of Substandard 3.5.

2.3.3. Suggestions

None.

2.4. Minor Deficiency 4

Partial compliance with Substandard 4.6 because of suboptimal handling of pharmaceutical products and because of suboptimal safety measures in a few rooms

2.4.1. Findings

A new procedure has been established to prevent improper handling of pharmaceutical products locally (e. g. marking of the date of opening, regular checking of expiration). Safety measures and equipment was checked in each room.

2.4.2. Comments

The minor problems occurring in these two fields have been corrected.

2.4.3. Suggestions

None.

2.5. Minor Deficiency 5

Partial compliance with Substandard 4.7 because of suboptimal recording of the use of teaching animals

2.5.1. Findings

In the large animal department, a list of procedures performed on the cows and the goats was updated and hanging outside each of the stables. Teachers noted the procedures performed by the student groups participating in the “Book of didactic animals”.

2.5.2. Comments

Steps have been taken to correct the deficiency.

2.5.3. Suggestions

Each individual animal should have its own record in which the performed examination/intervention should be recorded together with the number of times it was performed on the animal on a given occasion/day.

Some written guidelines on how many times an examination/intervention (especially invasive procedures) may be performed on the same animal should be elaborated and placed right by the animals in the stables.

2.6. Minor Deficiency 6

Partial compliance with Substandard 4.13 because of suboptimal isolation facilities for companion animals

2.6.1. Findings

Efforts have been made to separate small animals with infectious diseases from healthy animals, and new procedures are being elaborated.

2.6.2. Comments

The Team visited an adequate isolation unit for small animals which is under construction in one of the old clinical buildings and hence it is totally separated from the clinical activities performed on small animal non-infectious disease cases.

2.6.3. Suggestions

None.

2.7. Minor Deficiency 7

Partial compliance with Substandard 5.1 because of suboptimal number of necropsies in food-producing animals and absence of healthy pigs on the teaching farm for pre-clinical training

2.7.1. Findings

The VEE has made efforts to provide more farm animals for necropsy signing contracts with different private companies for providing cadavers for necropsy. From 2021/22 classes on pig diseases will be held on the Czesławice Experimental Farm where Puławy pigs are kept.

2.7.2. Comments

Through the contracts with local firms and the university's experimental farms, the VEE is expected to be able to provide enough cadavers and practical cases for students.

2.7.3. Suggestions

None.

2.8. Minor Deficiency 8

Partial compliance with Substandard 5.6 because of no formal clinical recording in food animal patients

2.8.1. Findings

Almost all food animal patients are treated extramurally. Farm visits with students were considered as "didactic", and patients were not recorded in the clinical record system. Now all food producing animal cases are recorded in the "Klinika 3000" computerised patient record system.

2.8.2. Comments

The Klinika 3000 was demonstrated in detail for the Team, and the deficiency is corrected.

2.8.3. Suggestions

It is suggested to create the possibility in Klinika 3000 for filtering out external cases, and herd visits.

2.9. Minor Deficiency 9

Partial compliance with Substandard 10.4 because of very few formal postgraduate training programmes.

2.9.1. Findings

Both administrative and financial difficulties, and low motivation on behalf of teachers overwhelmed with regular duties hinder the launching of new CE courses. The VEE makes efforts to increase staff motivation in order to initiate CE programmes.

2.9.2. Comments

Since the VEE has excellent relations with a variety of professional organisations, cooperation in the organisation of CE programmes and courses could be motivating and useful, ensuring that the needs of the profession are taken into account.

2.9.3. Suggestions

It is suggested that the VEE consider putting more focus on CE.

3. ESEVT Indicators

3.1. Findings

Given the short time since the full Visitation, the actions taken have not changed the Indicators substantially.

3.2. Comments

None.

3.3. Suggestions

None.

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	0,12	0,16	0,13	-0,01
I2	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0,74	0,87	0,59	0,15
I3	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0,31	0,94	0,57	-0,26
I4	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	979,25	905,67	595,00	384,25
I5	n° of hours of clinical training	914,00	932,92	670,00	244,00
I6	n° of hours of FSQ & VPH training	330,00	287,00	174,40	155,60
I7	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	160,00	68,00	28,80	131,20
I8	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	104,53	70,48	42,01	62,52
I9	n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	2,91	2,69	0,46	2,45
I10	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	1,38	5,05	1,30	0,08
I11	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	18,70	3,35	1,55	17,16
I12	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	1,79	6,80	0,22	1,57
I13	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	10,83	15,95	6,29	4,53
I14	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	1,14	2,11	0,60	0,55
I15	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	0,45	1,33	0,55	-0,10
I16	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually	0,06	0,12	0,04	0,02
I17	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	2,02	2,07	1,40	0,62
I18	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,29	2,32	0,97	-0,68
I19	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,10	0,30	0,09	0,01
I20	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	2,96	2,05	0,69	2,27
I21*	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0,18	0,20	0,06	0,12
I22*	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually	0,04	0,15	0,09	-0,05

4. Conclusions

The Major Deficiency (*Non-compliance with Substandard 3.5 because of insufficient clinical training in food producing animals and insufficient integrated approach of herd health management, 'From Farm to Fork' and 'One Health' concepts*) has been rectified and the 2nd Major Deficiency (*Non-compliance with Substandard 4.7 because of inadequate facilities, equipment and biosecurity and safety measures in the building (n°10) currently used by the Department and Clinic of Animal Reproduction*) has also been rectified.

Decision of ECOVE

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiencies identified after the full Visitation on 19 – 23 April 2021 had been corrected.

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