



Facultad de Veterinaria
Universidad Zaragoza



EAEVE
Re-Visitation
Self-Evaluation
Report

Zaragoza, 2020

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INTRODUCTION

EAEVE Visitation occurred from the 17th to the 22nd of March, 2020

During the Visitation, the Visiting Team identified several areas worthy of praise (i.e. Commendations), e.g.:

- The commitment and enthusiasm of staff and students
- Transparency and openness
- Student focused education
- Positive interaction between students and staff, in a learning inductive atmosphere
- Emphasis on an integrated species-oriented teaching.
- Willingness to further develop teaching and research
- Excellent cooperation with the Agro-Food Research Institute and the National Centre for Encephalopathies (OIE reference centre)
- Excellent students' life
- Effective implementation of a QA system

On the other hand, the Visitation team also identified two items of non-compliance with the ESEVT Standards (i.e. **Major Deficiency**):

- Non-compliance with **Substandard 4.6** because of sub-optimal compliance with relevant legislation concerning biosecurity; **Substandard 4.7** because the Establishment only partially demonstrates relevant biosecurity measures; and **Substandard 4.15** because there is no liquid containment in the area where the cadaver/animal transportation vehicle is disinfected.
- Non-compliance with **Substandard 4.13** because isolation facilities for equine are not fully operational.

The Visitation team has also identified one area of concern (i.e. **Minor Deficiencies**):

- Medical records of equine and ruminants seen extramurally are not effectively retrievable.

Based on the above considerations, in accordance with the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT) and based on the educational requirements of the Directive 2005/36/EC as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU the status of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Zaragoza is Non-Accreditation.

1. CORRECTION OF THE MAJOR DEFICIENCIES

1.1. Sub-optimal compliance with relevant legislation concerning biosecurity, Establishment only partially demonstrates relevant biosecurity measures and there is no liquid containment in the area where the cadaver/animal transportation vehicle is disinfected

1.1.1. Factual information

As it was explained in the SER, training about Security in laboratory practice and clinics for all students of Veterinary Degree is organized by the Veterinary School and the Prevention and Occupational Risk Unit of the University of Zaragoza (UPRL), which is held in the general conference room for new students at the beginning of the new academic course, which is compulsory for all students. The content and references can be found on the establishment web: <https://veterinaria.Unizar.es/estudiantes/formacion-prevencion-riesgos-y-seguridad#normas>.

The School has an actuation plan in case of accident; details can be found on the FVZ website: <https://veterinaria.Unizar.es/prevencion/actuacionesaccidente>. Specific protocols to be followed in case of work accident, depending on the activity or causal agent, are available on the web: <http://uprl.Unizar.es/seguridad/accidenteslaborales.html>.

Procedures and rules to follow in case of work accident inside the laboratories can be found at the entrance of the labs, at different points within the buildings.

Self-protection measures are ready to be taken at all buildings of the campus in case of evacuation, including procedure to follow in case of evacuation of animals. Detailed information can be found on the website: <https://veterinaria.unizar.es/prevencion/planes-autoproteccion>.

In addition, safety equipment and protection measures that students must compulsory accomplish to perform practices are explained in detail in the teaching guidelines. Safety equipment for practical sessions is also recommended in the Faculty website, : <http://veterinaria.unizar.es/prevencion/equipamiento-seguridad-practicas>, as well as specific procedures for the Veterinary Faculty, <http://veterinaria.unizar.es/prevencion/protocolosespecificosveteriaria>

Nevertheless, the following deviations were found during the establishment evaluation:

- a) **There are several medical emergency boxes empty.**
- b) **There are very few posters indicating the rules of security and biosecurity in the clinics. Use more posters for explaining security and recommending biosecurity in the clinics;**
- c) **Write the emergency biosecurity procedures and make them available for every person who works in the clinics (for clinical cases) and in the necropsy room.**
- d) **The water taps are opened and closed by hand and not with the elbow.**
- e) **In the equine clinics, there is a suboptimal number of soap and bottles of alcohol to disinfect hands. Improve and multiply material for hand wash, namely in the equine clinics**
- f) **In the equine clinics, several refrigerators are used to store pieces of dead horses and entire dogs. It is not appropriate to clutter the corridor with these refrigerators (dangerous for both the students and the horses). Find another place for the refrigerators**
- g) **The students are using their own personal protective tools in the necropsy room, protective material not being provided by the Establishment, except for aprons. Provide complete protection equipment to the students at the necropsy room and set up a signatory for all persons entering the necropsy room**
- h) **In case of the introduction of an eventually contagious animal in the necropsy room no written procedures for the further conduct are available.**

- i) The procedure for disinfection of the vehicle used to transport dead or live animals is not performed in a protected place (no liquid containment). A vehicle used for dead and live animals has permanent holes in its floor.**
- j) Complete the vehicle disinfection platform.**

After the visitation, the following measures have been implemented in order to manage the deficiencies:

a) There are several medical emergency boxes empty.

The order of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of October 8, 2007 (TAS/2947/2007, BOE of October 11, 2007) lays down that the supply of first aid kits to companies is part of the protective action of the Social Security System and recalls that the content of these kits will be that established in Royal Decree 486/1997) Annex VI.a (BOE of April 23, 1997) laying down minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace. What is indicated in this annex is limited to:

- authorized disinfectants and antiseptics
- absorbent cotton
- adhesive tape
- adhesive Dressings
- scissors
- tweezers
- disposable gloves

In accordance with these regulations, the Occupational Risk Prevention Unit of the University of Zaragoza (UPRL) has established a procedure for the revision and maintenance of the first aid kits installed in the different rooms of the University. The procedure is as follows.

- A copy of the form called the first-aid kit file will be placed in each of the first aid kits. It sets out the contents of the first aid kit and a series of boxes to control revisions.
- On a monthly basis the Centre or Service will review the contents of the first aid kit to replace what has been used up or expired
- The expired material will be removed from the first aid kit and deposited in any of the SIGRE points located in the pharmacies.
- The person performing the review will sign in the corresponding box of the file and send, using the form that appears on our website for this purpose, a message to the UPRL with the request for the material to be replaced as well as his or her name, location of the kit and date of the review (<http://uprl.unizar.es/vigisalud/petbotiquin.html>).
- At the end of the year, the form corresponding to each first aid kit will be sent to the UPRL through internal mail and will be replaced by a new form.

b) There are very few posters indicating the rules of security and biosecurity in the clinics. Use more posters for explaining security and recommending biosecurity in the clinics;

The signalling of chemical and biological risks in various hospital stays has been improved:

Small animal area:

- Clinical Laboratory
- Operating rooms
- Operating room warehouse
- Chemotherapy room
- General Warehouse
- Infectious room

Large animal area:

- Operating room
- Pharmacy of horses

Specific risk posters have been added in several areas:

- Pregnancy access in radiology rooms
- Pregnancy access prohibited in operating rooms
- Pregnancy access prohibited in chemotherapy room

The visible information has been completed by posters in all the consultations, pre-anaesthetics room and hospitalization:

- Information to know how to act in case of an accident
- Emergency phone numbers
- Information to know how to act in case of a bite or scratch.

The signalling of restricted and controlled access has been reinforced:

- Access to large animal operating rooms
- Chemotherapy room
- Large and small animal hospitalization areas
- Infectious areas of large and small animals

QR codes with the biosecurity manual of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital have been placed in all offices and rooms, namely regarding:

Regarding the prevention of the covid-19:

- Full hospital-wide treatment with biocides every 3 months.
- Staggered entrance and dressing room use.
- Thermographic camera at the entrance of the hospital.
- Only one owner per patient.
- Restricted seating in waiting rooms.
- Possibility to wait outside.

- Mandatory use of mask and screen for staff.
- Safety distances between people whenever possible.
- Gel dispensers available for teachers and students (internal corridors), as well as for owners (external corridors).
- Frequent hand washing and surface disinfection between patients (including chairs, doorknobs, etc.).
- Frequent ventilation in all spaces where possible.
- "Bubble" student groups to allow tracking.
- Posters throughout the hospital with the various extraordinary measures associated with the COVID-19.

c) Write the emergency biosecurity procedures and make them available for every person who works in the clinics (for clinical cases) and in the necropsy room.

Biosecurity procedures have been described for the Faculty's facilities where students carry out their veterinary practices. These protocols have been specifically included in the requirements that the student must fulfil to carry out the practices of each subject. The access to these protocols can be done through a link to the website of the Faculty that allows the student or the clinician to access the information with their cell phone

- Specific biosecurity procedures can be found down below:
 - Personal protection equipment (PPIs) needed to carry out practice sessions: <https://veterinaria.unizar.es/prevencion/equipamiento-seguridad-practicas>
 - Delegate Commission of the Safety and Health Committee: <https://veterinaria.unizar.es/prevencion/comision-seguridad-y-salud>
 - Regulations and General Information on Risks and Safety. <https://veterinaria.unizar.es/prevencion/informacion-general-y-normativa>
 - Veterinary Faculty specific protocols http://patologiaanimal.unizar.es/sites/patologiaanimal.unizar.es/files/archivos/version_23.9.15_propuesta_documento_de_normas_de_seguridad_del_departamento.pdf
 - Actions in case of accident. <https://veterinaria.unizar.es/prevencion/actuacionesaccidente>
 - Training. <https://veterinaria.unizar.es/prevencion/formacion>
- Specific biosafety protocols have been drafted for the Necropsies Room, Dissection Room and Teaching Unit.
- Covid-19 specific protocols have been written that have implications for the development of teaching. Appendix 1 and 2.

d) the water taps are opened and closed by hand and not with the elbow.

The aim is to replace the current taps located in the different rooms of the VTH of the University of Zaragoza in order to provide them with a handle so that they can be operated with the arm or elbow.

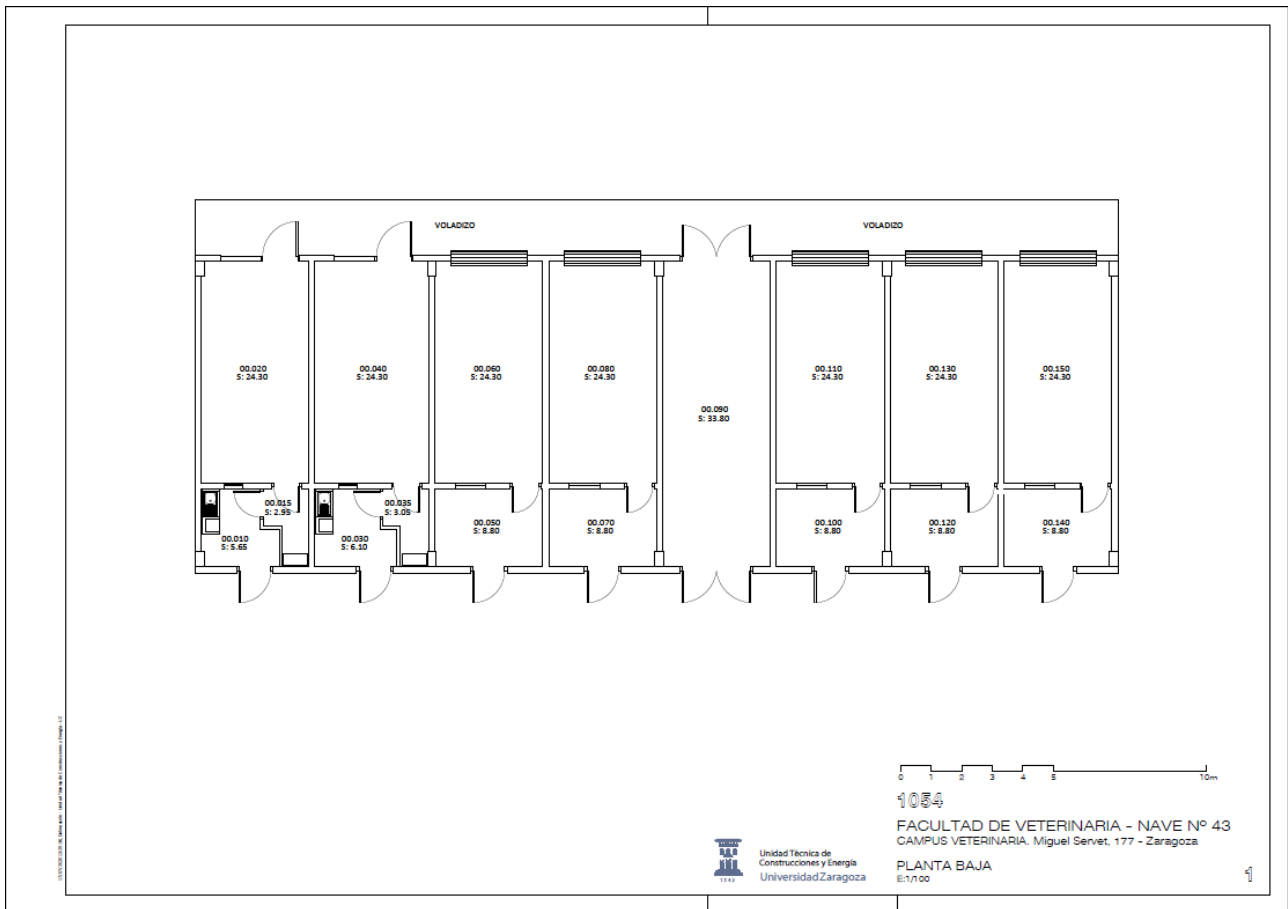
The actions foreseen consist of either the total replacement of the whole tap or, when possible, only the tap handle that allows to be open by the elbow or arm.

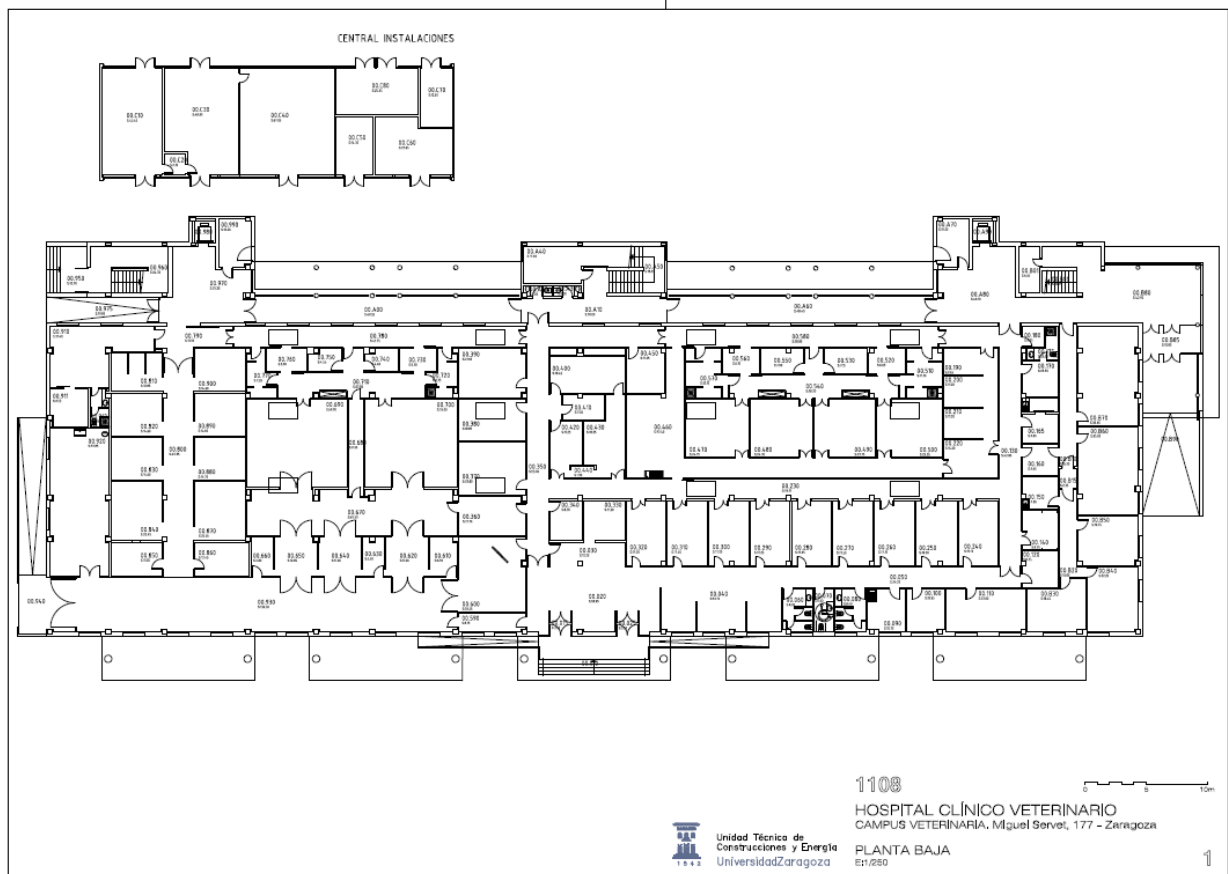
The spaces in which this change is planned the followings:

	SPACE	U.	TAP TYPE	
VTH	00.930	1	chrome. Dog wash shower	
		1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.920	1	chrome. Industrial pool	
		1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.670	3	painted. Laboratory	
	00.700	1	painted. Laboratory	
		1	painted. Laboratory. Moderna	
	00.360	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.460	3	painted. Laboratory	
		1	chrome. Dog wash shower	
	00.240	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.250	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.260	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.270	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.280	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.290	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.300	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.310	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.320	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.220	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.165	1	painted. Laboratory	
	00.150	1	painted. Laboratory. Modern	
	00.B50	1	chromed. Dog wash shower	
		1	chromed. Dog wash shower	
	00.920	1	IT IS NOT A MIXER TAP.painted. Laboratory	
		1	chromed. Dog wash shower	
	UNIT 43	LAZARETO HORSES 1	1	painted. Laboratory
		LAZARETO HORSES 2	1	painted. Laboratory. Modern
PRACTICE UNIT		1	painted. Laboratory	
		3		
TOTAL:		36		

The space numbers are shown on the attached drawings.

The approximate value of the replacement of all the taps will be about 4,500 euros. If only the levers can be changed, it will go down significantly.





- e) in the equine clinics, there is a suboptimal number of soap and bottles of alcohol to disinfect hands. Improve and multiply material for hand wash, namely in the equine clinics**

The hall or "clean area" is an area of about 4 m² and is equipped with a sink and a shelf as well as two lockers as dressing room. This room has been equipped with individual protection equipment, a container for sharp sanitary waste, as well as a disinfection footbath at the entrance door to the animal housing area. It has also been equipped with basic exploration instruments (stethoscope, thermometer and portable footbath, as well as basic consumables such as disinfectant soap, infusion drippers, syringes, needles, intravenous catheters and basic sampling material.

- f) in the equine clinics, several refrigerators are used to store pieces of dead horses and entire dogs. It is not appropriate to clutter the corridor with these refrigerators (dangerous for both the students and the horses). Find another place for the refrigerators**

The freezers have been removed from the corridor in the large animal area and their contents moved to a freezing cell provided by the Animal Experimentation Service (SEA).

<http://sai.unizar.es/experimentacion-animal/dotacion-instrumental>

- g) the students are using their own personal protective tools in the necropsy room, protective material not being provided by the Establishment, except for aprons. Provide complete protection equipment to the students at the necropsy room and set up a signatory for all persons entering the necropsy room**

The student who enters the Necropsy Room must carry:

A) Safety equipment for practices involving necropsy

- Disposable mask
- Disposable gloves
- Plastic coveralls, single use
- Resistant plastic tights, single use.
- Screen or glasses (to be cleaned and disinfected after each use)

B) Safety equipment for diagnostic-only practices

- Plastic coveralls, single use
- Resistant plastic tights, single use.

Under no circumstances will protective equipment leave the wardrobe of the Necropsy Room. No student shall wear clothing or footwear used to perform any necropsy outside the Necropsy Room premises.

In addition, 25 safety boots and 25 clogs have been purchased for those cases in which the student does not have his/her own disposable material (SEE ATTACHMENT)

A system of QR codes is in place to record the attendance of all personnel accessing the Necropsy Room:

QR codes have been placed at the entrance of the Necropsies Room to register the IN (green colour) and OUT (red colour) of the room. You need a cell phone and a QR reader App (or the mobile itself).

The reading of the code leads to a form to be completed every day when entering and leaving the room, in order to register the entry and exit. To avoid crowding at the entrance and exit and to facilitate reading, the codes are also available in the dressing room.

The colour identification of the QR, green / red, will mark the direction of traffic and access in / out, respectively.

This method of attendance control does not replace prevention measures, personal responsibility is essential: to comply with and enforce the current regulations regarding the use of masks, interpersonal separation and hygiene at the UZ.

- h) In case of the introduction of an eventually contagious animal in the necropsy room no written procedures for the further conduct are available.**

The procedure to be followed when detecting or suspecting a notifiable disease in the necropsy room is as follows:

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EDO). ARAGON. MODE OF NOTIFICATION OF URGENT NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

A) During normal working hours: Telephone the respective Provincial Sub-Directorate of Public Health (Epidemiological Surveillance Section): Province Telephone Huesca 974 29 32 28 Teruel 978 64 11 61 Zaragoza 976 71 53 50

B) Outside normal working hours: Telephone the Emergency Centre of Aragon (TELEPHONE 112), and indicate the need to notify an illness of urgent declaration to the PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT CARE SYSTEM.

More information available on

<https://www.aragon.es/-/enfermedades-de-declaracion-obligatoria-edo-y-otros-procesos#anchor1>

Information on the coordination, monitoring and implementation of plans for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases by the Government of Aragon

<https://www.aragon.es/temas/medio-rural-agricultura-ganaderia/ganaderia/sanidad-seguridad-animal>

In the case of a suspected infectious or zoonotic contagious disease, the procedure is as follows

- Immobilisation of the cadaver
- Immediate notification to the Government of Aragon of the suspicion of a notifiable disease.
- Destruction of all disposable material used that day.
- Disinfection of non-disposable material and the boots of the teachers involved.
- Tracing of the people who have been in the necropsy room on the day of the suspicion.
- Protocol for action marked by public health according to the disease detected
 - <https://www.aragon.es/-/enfermedades-de-declaracion-obligatoria-edo-y-otros-procesos#anchor1>
 - <https://www.aragon.es/temas/medio-rural-agricultura-ganaderia/ganaderia/sanidad-seguridad-animal>

- i) **The procedure for disinfection of the vehicle used to transport dead or live animals is not performed in a protected place (no liquid containment). A vehicle used for dead and live animals has permanent holes in its floor.**

The protocol for the disinfection of vehicles created by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has been acquired, further information can be checked in the following website:

https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/sanidad-animal-higiene-ganadera/hoja_divulgativa_centros_lyd_tcm30-111779.pdf

A protected area has been created for the disinfectant liquids and the pressurised water machine.

The holes in the floor of the van have been made unusable while transporting both live and dead animals (photos down below)



j) Complete the vehicle disinfection platform.

The permits of the vehicle disinfection platform have been regularised, it has been inspected by the relevant department of the regional government, has been approved, and complies with the following regulations:

- Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of the Council, 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97.
- Law 8/2003, 24 April 2003 on animal health (consolidated text, last amendment 21 July 2015).
- Royal Decree 638/2019 of 8 November establishing the basic conditions to be met by cleaning and disinfection platform for vehicles engaged in the road transport of live animals, products for feeding production animals and animal by-products not intended for human consumption, and creating the National Register of Cleaning and Disinfection Platforms.

Likewise, all the liquids and disinfection products have been refilled, and the vehicle disinfection platform is now operational.

For the disinfection of vehicles used for the transport of animals, a biocide type TP3 approved by the ECHA (European Chemical Agency) is used for the washing and disinfection of surfaces and vehicles for the transport of livestock.

1.2. Isolation facilities for equine are not fully operational

1.2.1. Factual information

As was explained in the SER of the Establishment enabled and equipped 2 equine stall-boxes for isolation and quarantine. Nevertheless, during the visit the boxes were just finished and had not been used. The presence of birds that could enter the facility was also detected and it was dirty.

We have implemented the following actions:

The large animal area at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) of the University of Zaragoza (UZ) has two isolation boxes inside the Animal Experimentation Service (SEA) facilities. Distance between the isolation boxes and the VTH is approximately 200 meters.

Each one of the boxes has an animal housing area or “dirty area” and a hall or “clean area”. The latter connects with the former and with the outside throughout an independent entrance gate.

Each of the animal housing area has an approximate area of 24 square meters and it is endowed with feeding and drinking troughs as well as anchorage points for the containment of animals. The entrance door for animals is split and the upper part allows the entrance of natural light and is equipped with a mosquito net. Moreover, the floor is made of anti-slip rubber and walls are painted with “epoxy” which allows an easy cleaning and disinfection.

The hall or “clean area” has an approximate area of 4 square meters and is equipped with a sink, a shelf and two lockers as dressing room. The hall has been equipped with individual protection equipment, a container for sharp sanitary waste, as well as a disinfection footbath at the entrance door to the animal housing area. It has also been equipped with basic exploration instruments (stethoscope, thermometer and portable drip foot), as well as basic consumables such as disinfectant soap, infusion droppers, syringes, needles, intravenous catheters and basic sampling material.

The protocols for the use of the room have been placed on the hall’s wall, as well as records of the entry and exit of personnel, dates of disinfection of the room and records of the renewal of the footbath’s disinfectant liquid.

A disposal plan has been established for the waste generated both in the clean area and in the animal housing area. The waste generated in the clean area is treated as class III waste, meaning specific bio-

sanitary waste is stored in specific containers duly identified and disposed in accordance with the regulations of the University of Zaragoza and established by the prevention and occupational risk unit. On the other hand, those generated in the animal housing area are collected in black polyethylene bags with a capacity of 120 litres and stored in a special container for subsequent incineration through a waste collection contract established between the University of Zaragoza and the company SARGA.

2. CORRECTION OF THE MINOR DEFICIENCIES

2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: Medical records of equine and ruminants seen extramurally are not effectively retrievable

2.1.1. Factual information

The Establishment should set up a recording system related to the caseload acquired during the bovine and equine extramural activity where all the patients are officially recorded. The system (preferably based on an electronic database) should allow the retrieval of the information in order them to be efficiently used as support for the teaching, research, and service programmes of the Establishment.

It is suggested to the Establishment to consider the opportunity of changing the current system of recording of patients utilized at the equine clinic (VTH) toward an electronic based system in order to facilitate the retrieval of the information.

Minor deficiency: There is no common computerised system to record the clinical cases throughout the different clinical activities. The use of a common clinical program could improve the opportunity for the students to perform cases studies. It could also facilitate administrative work and compatibility.

After the visit, the following measures have been implemented in order to manage the deficiencies:

Currently the clinical case management programme is carried out with a programme installed on the servers of the University of Zaragoza. There are twelve licences for each one of the VTH's computers, which only allows local access by authorised persons.

The current reality demands greater flexibility to be able to consult data and information from any device and operating system. Therefore, the VTH is going to change its IT support so that the information will be hosted on an online server and can be customized to meet the current and future needs that we come across in the management, control and monitoring of cases of both small animals, equids and ruminants.

This new software that will be implemented will allow adaptation to the legal requirements derived from the law on medicines, clinicians will be able to access their patient's records from any device and place, complementary diagnostic tests will be integrated and images of cases will be able to be included from a mobile device immediately. This new software will allow other services and clinical laboratories of the Faculty to include their results and reports directly in the Hospital's database so that they can be integrated into the patient's records. Students will also have access to this clinical information with the exception of the owner's data which is protected by law.

In order to see a demo of the above mention software, please access through: <https://test.koolvet.com> and introduce as user: demouni and password: qwerty1234

The shift from the old to the new platform, the transfer of information and the adaptation to the new operating system will take 3-4 months, during which both programs will be running simultaneously

3. ESEVT INDICATORS

3.1. Factual information

		FVZ	Minimum	Median	Balance
Calculated Indicators from raw data		Values	Values	Values	
I1	n° of FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate students	0.225	0.13	0.16	0.099
I2	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.651	0.59	0.87	0.061
I3	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.634	0.57	0.94	0.067
I4	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	833.333	595.00	905.67	238.333
I5	n° of hours of clinical training	705.000	670.00	932.92	35.000
I6	n° of hours of FSQ & VPH training	222.667	174.40	287.00	48.267
I7	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	130.000	28.80	68.00	101.200
I8	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	100.161	42.01	70.48	58.152
I9	n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	2.053	0.46	2.69	1.589
I10	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	1.366	1.30	5.05	0.068
I11	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	1.598	1.55	3.35	0.053
I12	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0.361	0.22	6.80	0.138
I13	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	7.205	6.29	15.95	0.910
I14	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	1.807	0.60	2.11	1.212
I15	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	1.590	0.55	1.33	1.043
I16	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually	0.152	0.04	0.12	0.107
I17	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	1.622	1.40	2.07	0.222
I18	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	3.451	0.97	2.32	2.480
I19	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0.101	0.09	0.30	0.008
I20	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	2.393	0.69	2.05	1.700
I21*	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.135	0.06	0.20	0.072
I22*	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually	0.198	0.09	0.15	0.110