

**European Association
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**



RE-VISITATION REPORT

To the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ankara University, Turkey

On 26-28 March 2018

By the Re-visitation Team:

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Introduction

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Ankara University (FVMAU) was visited between 2nd and 6th November 2015. The visitation was carried out as described in the Manual of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP, Budapest, May 2012) of the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT). The team commended the achievements of FVMAU and found the veterinary training compliant with the SOP in most aspects. The establishment was in the process of a major investment, the clinics were just being rebuilt at the time of the visitation and they were working in temporary places. The visiting team found the temporary facilities inadequate and identified the clinical facilities as a possible major deficiency. The European Committee of Veterinary Education (ECOVE) accepted this suggestion and identified “Inadequate hospital facilities for small and large animals” as a major deficiency on the 11th May, 2016 in Uppsala. ECOVE added “Inadequate isolation facilities” as a second major deficiency that resulted in non-approval status of FVMAU.

FVMAU considered that the above major deficiencies were corrected by September 2017 and informed ECOVE about it. ECOVE nominated László Fodor, chair of the former Visitation team and Pierre Lekeux as ESEVT coordinator to confirm these achievements by a Re-visit.

1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies

1.1. Major Deficiency 1: Inadequate hospital facilities for small and large animals

1.1.1. Findings

FVMAU continued and completed the renovation of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) that was begun before the visitation in 2015. The renovation project was implemented in two phases. The Clinic of Small Animal Surgery, the Diagnostic Imaging Unit, the Clinic of Companion Animal Reproduction, the Large Animal Clinic, the Isolation Units and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit together with the necessary laboratories and service units were completed in February 2016. The second stage, including the Small Animal Internal Medicine Clinic, the Emergency Clinic, the Hospitalisation and Intensive Care Units, the Veterinary Pharmacy and the Central Diagnostic Laboratory was opened in September 2017.

The facilities are up-to-date, they meet the requirements and they provide excellent teaching and clinical environment for the students, staff and clients. The renovation was not easy since the buildings are architecture-protected ones; special permissions are needed and no irreversible changes are allowed. For this reason, the floor bricks could not be changed to other floor type that could have been cleaned and disinfected more efficiently. Several new equipment were invested, a new electronic clinical registration system was introduced, and FVMAU could establish a few new positions, so not only the infrastructure was developed but the clinical staff, too. The small animal clinics were actively used at the time of the Re-visit, however there were only a few hospitalised animals. The facilities for large animals also meet the requirements, but no animals were in the large animal clinic at the time of the Re-visit. The low clinical caseload of large animals at the faculty is compensated with mobile clinic activity, which was also developed since the visitation. Six students and four teachers do ambulatory service twice a week with a well-equipped mobile clinic. In addition to this large-scale investment, FVMAU opened a Clinical Skills Laboratory, in order to improve clinical

training of the students, and an Animal Behaviour Laboratory. Students were very much satisfied with the improved clinical facilities and the improved clinical training.

1.1.2. Comments

FVMAU took the advantage of the results of the visitation in 2015 and used the report as a tool to get financial support to the development of the establishment. The improved service of the clinic attracts more referral cases and the enlarged space made it possible to establish new teaching units like the Clinical Skills Laboratory and the Animal Behaviour Laboratory.

1.1.3. Suggestions

Together with the authorities responsible for architecture protection, a reasonable solution should be reached regarding the historical floor in order to facilitate its cleaning and disinfection.

1.1.4. Decision

Major Deficiency 1 (Inadequate hospital facilities for small and large animals) has been fully corrected.

1.2. Major Deficiency 2: Inadequate isolation facilities

1.2.1. Findings

The isolation facilities were completed by February 2016 near the courtyard of the Large Animal Clinic. The Isolation Units consist of four separate isolation rooms, which can be used by companion animals and farm animals. The own personnel, separate changing rooms, examination room, independent ventilation system with HEPA filters, separated waste management and regular disinfection help the complete isolation of the animals and decrease the risk of contamination. The Isolation Units were in use at the time of the Re-visitation: two stray dogs were hospitalised there.

1.2.2. Comments

The isolation facilities meet the requirements.

1.2.3. Suggestions

None.

1.2.4. Decision

Major Deficiency 2 (Inadequate isolation facilities) has been fully corrected.

2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies

2.1. Minor Deficiency/recommendation 1: Increasing equine clinical caseload

2.1.1. Findings

In order to provide enough equine cases, FVMAU signed an agreement with the Turkey Jockey Club (TJC) and it was renewed. The recent protocol increased the number of the horse cases and it gives more hands-on practical to the students and students have practicals in the hospital of TJC. A Hyperimmune Serum Production Unit was established in the Experimental and Applied Research Farm of FVMAU, and the horses of this unit are also used for teaching. The

number of the extramural equine cases increased from 9 to 118. Further similar agreements were signed with equine training centres and horse clubs.

2.1.2. Comments

It is very difficult to increase the number of equine cases at a veterinary school located in the middle of the big city with 5 million inhabitants, but FVMAU did its best. However, the new agreements with different training centres and equine clubs and the renovated Large Animal Clinic can hopefully further increase the equine caseload.

2.1.3. Suggestions

None.

2.2. Minor Deficiency/recommendation 2: Increasing necropsy cases regarding equine and large animals

2.2.1. Findings

The number of necropsied horses and farm animals unfortunately remained low, however the school does not charge the owners. According to the agreement of FVMAU with TJC and the army, these partners provide carcasses to necropsy. FVMAU bought a truck to collect post-mortem cases and tries to increase their number.

2.2.2. Comments

Since post-mortem examination is very important in the diagnostic work, FVMAU is encouraged to further increase the number of necropsies.

2.2.3. Suggestions

None.

2.3. Minor Deficiency/recommendation 3: Updating teaching methods and restructuring the examination system

2.3.1. Findings

The Faculty Board on Education of FVMAU initiated several changes regarding education. Teaching is getting more learner-centred, teachers have to upload teaching materials weekly, courses on teaching methods were held, and a Clinical Skills Laboratory for companion animals has been set-up and implemented in the education programme.

New examination methods have been applied including oral, written examinations, quizzes, homework, semester presentations, laboratory examinations and objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).

2.3.2. Comments

FVMAU is on the way of updating the teaching methods and examination system. The Clinical Skills Laboratory is outstanding and highly appreciated by students.

2.3.3. Suggestions

None.

2.4. Minor Deficiency/recommendation 4: Offering laboratory services and continuing professional development courses to practising veterinarians

2.4.1. Findings

FVMAU provides now a wide variety of laboratory services (biochemical, bacteriological, virological, parasitological examinations). FVMAU sometimes together with professional organisations and competent authorities offers continuing education courses.

2.4.2. Comments

The new clinical facilities can hopefully increase the demand for laboratory and other clinical services. The excellent clinical facilities make it possible to organise continuing education courses on clinical topics for practitioners.

2.4.3. Suggestions

None.

2.5. Minor Deficiency/recommendation 5: Reducing the undergraduate students' number

2.5.1. Findings

The average number of the enrolled students is 170, 30 students come from vertical and horizontal transfer, so there are about 200 students in the first year and 150 graduate annually. The number of the students is defined by the Higher Education Council as a result of a complicated national selection procedure. The school cannot influence it at all.

2.5.2. Comments

The high number of students makes veterinary teaching very difficult, especially in the case of a limited teaching staff and caseload in some species. High student number does not allow intensive teacher-student connection and hands-on training, which are necessary in veterinary education. At a discussion with Prof. Dr. Aysun Bay Karabulut, Member of the Quality Board of Higher Education Council, the team underlined the importance to adapt the students' number to the available staff, caseload and facilities.

2.5.3. Suggestions

Continuous efforts are suggested to convince the Higher Education Council to reduce the number of students.

2.6. Minor Deficiency/recommendation 1: Increasing residency programmes

2.6.1. Findings

Interest to specialisation is increasing at FVMAU. One professor is already member of ECSRHM, one professor is just before the board exam and one associate professor is doing her residency programme. Some teachers are involved in a common programme with Minnesota University, which will result in a residency programme.

2.6.2. Comments

None.

2.6.3. Suggestions

Offering more residency programmes is recommended.

2.7. Minor Deficiency/recommendation 7: Improving ambulatory service capacities

2.7.1 Findings

The ambulatory service of FVMAU was increased in the recent years. More staff members are allocated to this activity, a new vehicle was bought, it became well equipped and the number of the ambulatory cases, especially equine, was increased.

2.7.2. Comments

Further development of ambulatory activity is recommended in the future, since less and less farm animal patients could be expected in the clinics. In some cases ambulatory service could also be used to increase the number of large animals necropsies.

2.7.3. Suggestions

None.

2.8. Minor Deficiency/recommendation 8: Improving animal welfare practices in overall FVMAU units

2.8.1. Findings

Animal welfare practices have been improved in the recent years at FVMAU. Animal welfare aspects were taken into account when the new clinical facilities were planned, animal welfare issues were strengthened at the Experimental and Applied Research Farm of the FVMAU, where a new veterinarian has also been employed. Teaching of animal welfare and animal ethics by Department of History of Veterinary Medicine and Deontology remained a priority.

2.8.2. Comments

None.

2.8.3. Suggestions

None.

3. ESEVT Indicators

3.1. Findings

Name of the Establishment: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Ankara University (FVMAU)		ESEVT Indicators			
Date of the form filling: 26.01.2018					
Calculated Indicators from raw data		Establishment values	Median values ¹	Minimal values ²	Balance ³
11	n° of FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate students	0,133	0,16	0,13	0,007
12	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	1,114	0,87	0,59	0,524
13	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	1,107	0,94	0,57	0,541
14	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	1162,000	905,67	595,00	567,000
15	n° of hours of clinical training	1872,000	932,92	670,00	1202,000
16	n° of hours of FSQ & VPH training	206,000	287,00	174,40	31,600
17	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	32,000	68,00	28,80	3,200
18	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	103,276	70,48	42,01	61,266
19	n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	4,991	2,69	0,46	4,528
110	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0,558	5,05	1,30	-0,740
111	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	7,254	3,35	1,55	5,709
112	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0,000	6,80	0,22	-0,223
113	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	3,882	15,95	6,29	-2,413
114	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0,775	2,11	0,60	0,180
115	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	1,234	1,33	0,55	0,687
116	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually	0,236	0,12	0,04	0,192
117	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	1,829	2,07	1,40	0,429
118	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,324	2,32	0,97	-0,646
119	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,033	0,30	0,09	-0,060
120	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	1,805	2,05	0,69	1,113
121*	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating ann	NA	0,20	0,06	NA
122*	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually	0,142	0,15	0,09	0,054
¹ Median values defined by data from Establishments with Approval status in April 2016					
² Recommended minimal values calculated as the 20th percentile of data from Establishments with Approval status in April 2016					
³ A negative balance indicates that the Indicator is below the recommended minimal value					
* Indicators used only for statistical purpose					

3.2. Comments

Several Indicators linked to the patients' caseload have been improved since the last Visitation.

3.3. Suggestions

Further increase in equine patients' caseload and in large animal necropsies should be encouraged.

4. Conclusions

The two major deficiencies have been fully corrected and an on-going process is in place to correct the minor deficiencies.

Decision of ECOVE

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiencies, identified in 2015, had been rectified.

The 'Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ankara University' is therefore classified as holding the status of: **APPROVAL**.