

**European Association
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**

**Association Européenne
des Etablissements d'Enseignement Vétérinaire**



**Report on the Stage I revisit to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest,
Bucharest, Romania**

18 – 20 April 2016

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Introduction

In April 2016, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania was revisited to evaluate the progress done in solving the major deficiencies identified in the first visit in 2011.

The decision by ECOVE May 2012 following this visit in 2011 was: NOT APPROVED.

The major deficiencies which led to this decision were:

1. Insufficient case load of large animals (including horses)
2. Insufficient necropsy case load of cattle, pigs and horses
3. Severe deficiencies in the application of the principles and EU standards of animal welfare
4. Inadequate activity and governance of mobile clinic
5. Inadequate isolation facilities for large animals

In October 2015, a revisit was requested by the Faculty and the revisit date was fixed for April 2016.

Prior to the visit, the Team received a copy of the letter sent to EAEVE by the Rector Ionut Razvan Todorescu and the Dean Gabriel Predoi. The letter contained a 6 pages signed

Final Report on the results and corrections of the deficiencies pointed out in the final decision by ECOVE

Based on this report and during its 2 day stay 18 – 20 April 2016 the present revisit report was generated.

Introduction to the revisit and the generated site visit report

During its stay, the team was guided through a program specifically designed to demonstrate the improvements that had been made since 2011. Even if it is outside the remit of this visitation team, it was noted with pleasure that the Faculty had improved the general quality of the teaching facilities, had added considerable amounts of infrastructure especially in the small animal clinic

Everything was very well prepared and the reception was very professional and simultaneously very warm, catering for the needs of the team at all times.

The solutions adopted by the faculty to address issues raised strongly reflect often specific conditions of animal breeding, agriculture and veterinary care in the country and in the region

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surrounding the capital. Heavy traffic, distribution of farms and animal populations, specific use of some species like horses, epidemiologic situation might have put some limitations to teaching. The distributed model used for isolation facilities represents a suitable solution.

All teaching activities subject to the team's check are comparable to approved schools; the general standard is adequate, although variable from area to area. Specific issues were mentioned in the corresponding parts of this report.

The visit started Monday afternoon with a brief meeting with the dean, vice deans and a number of senior professors:

- Prof. Gabriel Predoi, Dean
- Prof. Iuliana Ionascu, Vice Dean
- Prof. Mariana Ionita, Interpreter
- Prof. Liviu Mitrea, Liaison Officer
- Prof. Alin Birtoiu, Vice Rector
- Prof. Alexandru Sonea, President of the Senate
- Prof. Manuella Militaru, Vice Dean
- Prof. Margarita Ghimpeteanu, Interpreter

and the remit of the revisit was presented to the Faculty.

The team stayed together during the well prepared program.

1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies

1.1. Major Deficiency # 1: Insufficient case load of large animals (including horses)

1.1.1. Findings

The figures on large animal patients presented in the tables and the resulting indicators are within the corresponding ranges as defined by the SOPs at the time of the first visitation. They include all cases seen by the students regardless of their origin (intramural, extramural supervised, mobile clinics, contracted activities with other subjects).

The huge increase observed after the first visitation was explained as a reflection of the feedback provided by EAEVE accompanied by recent changes of legislation allowing to sign agreements and contracts.

Since the first visitation, a new teaching farm (Moara Domneasca) has been built by reconstructing existing facilities belonging to the University. The farm is of a very good standard in terms of the facilities, handling and care of animals, as well as veterinary care supervised by the faculty. Students are brought in with regular intervals within different modules. Taking into consideration the numbers of cattle housed here (dairy cows, feeder bulls, young cattle), students can acquire significant hands-on experience. All activities performed here are supervised by faculty teachers. Like other farms (see below), heavy traffic in Bucharest and long distance represent a logistic limitation for this type of practical

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teaching. However, there are no farms in the close proximity of the capital city. Two other types of extramural premises are used for extramural, university supervised teaching.

The so called “Sanitar Veterinary Circumscription” (CSV) is a specific form of local veterinary care in Romania organized by the government. It offers veterinary care and state veterinary control in the countryside. Based on contracts with these units, students are brought to participate to routine veterinary care. In one of them, in Glina, teaching isolation facilities were constructed (see #5). The veterinarian in charge in this specific facility is a faculty member of the university and teaches students every day in an ordinary, local practice including potential animals in the isolation facility.

Commercial (private) farms have also been contracted to be used for teaching purposes. The farm visited by the re-visiting team (Floroaica) is a big farm with 1,500 dairy cows and with an industrial pig producing unit. Students have access to both of them and visit them regularly.

The faculty has made several steps to increase the caseload in equines. Contracts were signed with horse establishments (eg. that of the Municipal Police) to serve as extramural examination sites for students under the supervision of a teacher, media campaigns promoted the services of the large animal clinic, free transportation was offered for large animals to the faculty.

As a result of these measures, the total number of equine cases increased from 227 to 879 during the three year period. The intramural cases are about 10% of the total.

1.1.2. Comments

The recently implemented arrangements led to a significant increase in caseloads in all animal species concerned. The team has checked primary data openly provided by the faculty, including original clinical and necropsy protocols, and arrived to the conclusion that the figures presented in the summarizing tables of the Interim report are a realistic picture of the current activities of the faculty. The measures taken by the faculty have led to moving the corresponding indicators within the required ranges. For all of these activities, welfare issues are respected at a good, standard level.

1.1.3. Suggestions

The team would welcome some more efforts for an increase in the number of intramural cases. The planned construction of a new large animal hospital close to the Faculty Farm in the rural area of Bucharest will help solving this.

1.1.4. Decision of the Visitation Team

It is the opinion of the 2016 team that this major deficiency has been fully rectified.

1.2. Major Deficiency # 2: Insufficient necropsy case load of cattle, pigs and horses

1.2.1. Findings

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The Faculty has made considerable and very positive changes for pathology. Professors Manuella Militaru and Emilia Ciobotaru demonstrated all aspects of the normal procedures and readily answered all questions.

Necropsies are done in a separate, new and rather small building equipped with 4 necropsy tables, relevant equipment and easy access for staff and students. Biosecurity for entrance was enforced on the team (commendable). Equipment for samples to be proceeded for histology was readily available. The Faculty runs its own incinerator for waste material from the necropsy room.

The team saw necropsies performed correctly on dog, bird, piglet, and a medium sized calf. Students were working in an orderly way under good instruction by veterinarians and further to this the Faculty has introduced co-teaching of 6th year students with 3rd year students thereby training senior students in explaining clearly their observations and the clinical correlates of these. It is the opinion of the staff that students appreciate the new and intensified pathology training.

Like for the previous major deficiency, the team again checked primary protocols and asked about the way of calculating the indicators.

1.2.2. Comments

It was not the purpose of the Re-visitation to evaluate teaching in pathology in general. However, the facts presented above document that the increase in indicators corresponds to real activities in this department.

1.2.3. Suggestions

The Faculty should consider to construct a new facility even better suitable for large animal pathology.

1.2.4. Decision of the Visitation Team

It is the opinion of the 2016 team that this major deficiency has been fully rectified.

1.3. Major Deficiency # 3: Severe deficiencies in the application of the principles and EU standards of animal welfare

1.3.1. Findings

The Faculty has made great efforts to correct the deficiencies mentioned in the report of the first visitation and Prof. Elena Mitranescu gave relevant, in-depth answers to all the team's questions.

At the beginning of each academic year there is a short training (30-60 minutes) for the academic staff and technicians who are in any connection with live animals. This is a refreshment training dealing with current animal welfare regulations, international and Romanian regulations of animal experiments etc.

Principles of animal welfare have been introduced into formal (direct) teaching. A specialized person (Prof. Elena Mitranescu) is in charge of two compulsory courses, one in the 3rd and one in the final 6th year. The program of the 3rd year course addresses all important welfare

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issues. Students are taught to assess animal welfare in different situations (clinics, slaughterhouse etc.). A "bioethical committee" approves principles and ways of teaching on live animals on a regular basis.

- All disciplines have their own protocols dealing with animal welfare, e.g. at the slaughterhouse there are checkpoints, which students have to go through and control animal welfare at that certain point. The Bioethical Committee approves these protocols.

Indirect implications. The general level of biosecurity has improved since the last visit, leading to better conditions for the patients. Written instructions are displayed in the clinical facilities. The organization of the patients' flow, sorting and hospitalization do respect animal welfare issues, e.g. separation of dogs and cats in examination rooms and during hospitalization, housing of animals etc. However, a single recovery room with two areas is used for the two major small animal species.

In the small animal clinics, the team experienced posters on the walls of different rooms expressing the rights of animals and the importance of animal welfare and the handling of animals was in correlation with this in the clinic and in the small animal hospital as well.

In the large animal clinic and on the farms, the team noticed very well maintained facilities for the animals, animals in very good body condition, plenty of room for the animals and generally areas conducive of good training and learning for veterinary students.

1.3.2. Comments

Formally, the deficiency has been addressed properly. Informally, important steps have been implemented to improve the general care of animal welfare, accompanied with improvements in biosecurity.

The disposal and relatively poor condition of some of the old buildings represent a limitation to the tasks of the Establishment in this area. However, the Faculty is in the middle of construction of a new small animal hospital, and has plans for a new large animal hospital outside the centre of Bucharest which is assumed to help in this regard.

1.3.3. Suggestions

The Faculty is encouraged to continue its activities in the area of animal welfare and biosecurity and to take the advantage of the new building under construction for setting their high standards. A better separation of dogs and cats during recovery and intensive therapy would be one of the steps in this direction as well.

1.3.4. Decision of the Visitation Team

It is the opinion of the 2016 team that this major deficiency has been fully rectified.

1.4. Major Deficiency # 4: Inadequate activity and governance of mobile clinic

1.4.1. Findings

The mobile clinic was renewed in 2013. The number of cases seen by the mobile clinic is increasing year by year. In 2015 the mobile clinic had 219 visits. The clinic has a vehicle which serves exclusively for this purpose.

The vehicle is a Dacia van in good condition, equipped with mobile ultrasound equipment, infusion pump, surgery kits, etc.

The mobile clinic operates on a 24/7 basis. A clinician from the academic staff (according to the case) and three students (in rotation) are the crew of the mobile clinic. The clinic operates on call, but they also perform planned visits for follow up of the cases seen previously.

1.4.2. Comments

An adequate unit.

1.4.3. Suggestions

None

1.4.4. Decision of the Visitation Team

It is the opinion of the 2016 team that this major deficiency has been fully rectified.

1.5. Major Deficiency # 5: Inadequate isolation facilities for large animals

1.5.1. Findings

The problem of isolation facilities for large animals has been solved with regards to specific local conditions. The faculty is located in the center of the capital city and therefore, the flow of large animal patients is limited. The faculty can bring individual animals to the campus for teaching purposes but there is no regular flow of large animal patients within the campus. Consequently, large animals suspect to need isolation a priori cannot be accepted. The faculty thus has to organize most of its large animal teaching activities extramurally. This was the reason why, based on the EAEVE evaluation report, the faculty has constructed isolation facilities for large animals outside the school, in Glina. Although this solution is not optimal due to the regular veterinary activity provided by the CSV (see #1) in the same place, the isolation rooms have a separate entrance provided with a disinfection pool at arrival, separate entrances for people and animals, separate waste management and destruction guaranteed by a professional company, as well as a separate air circulation. The facility is one-year old, so of adequate standard in terms of its technical condition and of welfare issues.

1.5.2. Comments

None.

1.5.3. Suggestions

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When the new large animal hospital is built large animal isolation facilities will be a logic part of that facility.

1.5.4. Decision of the Visitation Team

It is the opinion of the 2016 team that this major deficiency has been fully rectified.

2. There were no minor deficiencies addressed in connection with this Re-visit

3. ESEVT Indicators

3.1. Findings

The figures presented in the tables in the short revisit SER were controlled and found to be in accordance with facts and figures extractable from the numerous protocols and students patient records presented.

3.2. Comments

None.

3.3. Suggestions

None.

4. Conclusions

The team recommends full approval following the team's impression that all major deficiencies have been fully rectified and that the Faculty is in full compliance with the ESEVT standards.

The faculty is encouraged to continue its efforts in building new facilities (small and large animal hospitals) and in improving even further the currently existing standards.

Annex 1 Decision of ECOVE

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiencies identified in 2011 had been rectified.

The 'Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest' is classified after Re-visitation as holding the status of **APPROVAL**.