

REVISIT REPORT

**Faculty of veterinary medicine (FVM) of the
University of Liege (ULg)**

18-19 January 2010

Liege 2010

Introduction

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM), University of Liege, Belgium, was revisited at January 18th - 19th, 2010 by the team of experts:

Professor Dr. Marc Gogny (France) Expert visitor on training in basic sciences & chairman of the Primary visit to Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liege ,
and
Professor Lars Moe (Norway), member of the board of ECOVE (European Committee on Veterinary Education) committee, expert visitor on training in clinical sciences.

The Evaluation Report on the visiting results of the FVM was published on 7th September 2009 and it was approved by EAEVE and FVE ECOVE committee on 23 November 2009.

Category 1

There were two Category 1 suggestions in the report:

1. Inadequate necropsy room
2. Lack of adequate isolation facilities (small animals) and isolation facilities in general (large animals)

Changes to correct the category 1 deficiencies have been made according to an ambitious, faculty wide biosecurity plan (see below) that the FVM have developed after the evaluation visit in March 2009.

Ad 1 Necropsy room

Comments

The entrance has been moved to the opposite side of the necropsy room. A temporary cabin has been installed in front of the entrance. This cabin is used as a changing room with the aim to separate the ingoing and outgoing people to the necropsy theatre. There are lockers for outdoor clothes for each student (approx 10). Specific yellow boots are available, and are not to be allowed outside the building. Specific disposable clothes (Tyvec overalls, in use for one week) were available for each student, in addition to disposable gloves. For visitors there were similar, but not as solid overalls. People had to pass disinfection baths in the way in and out of the necropsy room.

There was constructed a new separation grid between the necropsy part of the necropsy room and the washing and cleaning parts. New cleaning machines for boots, hands, and equipment were available. The routes for how people should move in the room were clearly marked with signs on the floor, and guidelines for cleaning and washing were displayed on the walls.

A new washing machine was purchased, for high pressure hot water washing and disinfection.

Suggestions

The action taken has greatly improved the situation in the necropsy room, but the solution is temporary and the FVM is encouraged to consider constructing a permanent building. It is for example not optimal to leave the cabin and walk outside the building a few steps before entering the necropsy building.

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Furthermore, the cabin is too small when all the students are leaving or coming to the cabin at the same time. It is advisable to separate the incoming persons and the outgoing persons in a better way and if possible, to separate the “wet” and the “dry” area.

Despite these remarks, we recommend that the Category 1 deficiency has been solved.

Ad 2 Lack of adequate isolation facilities

Comments

A previously empty area on the outskirts of the campus, close to large animal clinics has been used to construct a new large animal isolation unit. A new, specific road to access the facility, has been created. Animals (both horses and cattle) with suspected or evident infectious diseases are unloaded from the truck into a newly build, large (approx 2.5 x 4 meters) shallow reservoir on the ground with a mattress with disinfectants. A temporary cabin, similar to the cabin used for the necropsy room, has been purchased and designed as a changing room for the students and staff. The cabin has the same basic design and equipment as the necropsy cabin.

Two boxes (permanent) for horses, taken from the equine clinic, but with completely separate access relative to the equine clinic, are available, and two not permanent boxes for cattle are installed in the courtyard. The caretakers may observe the isolated horses via a window from the equine clinic.

It has been constructed a new walkway to the container for waste from the boxes. This waste in the container would then be handled separately from other faecal material and litter from non-isolated animals.

The isolation unit for small animals has also been rebuilt. There is now a new external entrance to the isolation room. The room is small but painted and rebuilt and efficiently equipped, and with proper management it will be suitable as an isolation unit. There are cages for both a few dogs and cats.

The isolation room is in the end of the clinic corridor, and away from other small animal areas. The entrance and corridor to the isolation room from the clinic is narrow, but is not used for other purposes. Nevertheless there is no real distinction between people coming into the changing area and out of the isolation unit to change there. The changing area is quite small, and there is a risk that the interior of the changing room may be contaminated by people coming out from it.

Suggestions

The first suggestion is that permanent buildings are constructed for cattle, and for the changing room. The rooms for cattle need to be large enough also for adult animals, although normally younger cattle are isolated. It is positive that the horses can be visually observed from the outside of the isolation unit, and the same principle should be applied to cattle and small animals as well.

The changing room in the small animal isolation unit need further improvements.

Despite of these suggestions, we recommend that the Category 1 deficiencies are alleviated.

Category 2

There were several Category 2 deficiency suggestions

1. Lack of steering group for the four establishments.
2. Lack of adequate teaching and training in milk, milk products and fish.
3. Lack of common adequate patient recording system.
4. Lack of compliance with EU-legislation in housing animals on experimental farm.

Ad 1 Steering group of the four faculties

A steering group has been established, and has already met twice. We met one representative from each of the other faculties, and they confirmed that contacts and meetings have been held. The group has clear mission statements, and this will have very positive effects in the future, leading to a better harmonisation of the first cycle and allowing teachers to share some teaching material.

It has to be noticed that all the four faculties agree to a maximum number of 250 students in the second cycle. When considering the overall facilities, the academic and support staff and the animal caseload, the experts are in full agreement with that maximum number of students. Even that number could be considered as too high, as pointed out by the R1 ratio (9.5 in the present academic year), which remains a little out of range. Any increase above 250 students per year would be unacceptable.

Ad 2 Teaching in milk, milk products and fish

The experts visited the brand new 700 squared meters food hygiene teaching and research unit, the construction of which was just beginning during the primary visit. They also had access to the new courses that are developed with the new curriculum (VETE 1023, 1024, 0047, 0048).

Ad 3 Lack of common adequate patient recording system

The computer based record system has been further developed and combined with the management system (SAP). It is routinely used for equine patients. It has been recently introduced to the small animal clinic, and to the production animal clinic. The necropsy diagnoses and the clinical pathology results are not included in the main electronic record system. Paper records are still written, and the written reports are linked up to the SAP system.

A permanent steering group has been established for the further improvements of the record system.

Ad 4. Lack of compliance with EU-legislation in housing animals on experimental farm.

This suggestion has not been completed. The milking robot has been bought, but is not yet in function and the pig farm still has to be improved to the minimum international requirements. When a faculty runs its own farm for educational purposes, it ought to be of good quality and the students are to be taught by veterinarians and/or especially trained people.

Suggestions

We recommend that the #1 and #2 Category 2 deficiencies are alleviated.

General findings

Many other improvements have been made since the primary visit in March 2009. It is beyond the scope of the re-evaluation visit to report here all these positive adaptations.

The mobile ambulatory vehicle is impressively well equipped and brand new. This will be an improvement to the teaching of the students and the service to the referring veterinarians. When it is expanded to 24 h service, it will be an even bigger improvement.

We will especially emphasize the impressive Biosecurity Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that has been written and developed by the FVM in 2009 (1-146 pages). It seems to be already well implemented in the laboratories and the clinics. It is important that the maintenance of the Biosecurity SOP and the intensions behind it is closely followed up. To follow the intensions behind the Biosecurity SOP a new way of working and thinking in several areas over several years is needed.

ECOVE decision: FULL APPROVAL