

**REPORT ON THE RE-VISIT TO THE FACULTY OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE, LJUBLJANA**

**9-10 MARCH 2011**

**by Prof. Dr. Laszlo Fodor  
Prof. Dr. Luca Rossi**

Previous to the visit, the Dean (Prof. M. Kosec) had mailed to visitors (Prof. L. Fodor and Prof. L. Rossi) a report on improvements in clinical training of fourth and fifth year students implemented since the EAEVE visit in October 2009 (see Annex A). An Agenda was proposed by the Dean and his team, which we agreed (Annex B). The Agenda was strictly respected during the visit.

On March 9, colleagues (Prof. M. Kosec, Prof. O. Zorman Rojs, Prof. M. Drobnic Kosorok, Prof. A. Seliskar, and Assist. Prof. M. Vengust, Assist. Prof. J. Racnik and Assist. Prof. O. Podpecan) and a student (Mr. Kersic) provided us information and their opinion about re-organization of the practical clinical training, with special emphasis on the 24 hour 7 days per week emergency services for equines, production animals and companion animals. In addition, we had a separate meeting with five students (Ms. A. Kastelic, Mr. J. Jerman, Mr. F. Macek, Mr. S. Peterka and Mr. T. Kersic), during which we collected their opinion on several points, ranging from satisfaction for new training opportunities to perception of the general organization of the Veterinary Medicine course in Ljubljana, and how they feel prepared to incoming professional challenges.

On March 10, we were assisted by Prof. Kastelic and Prof. Zorman Rojs plus Assist. Prof. Racnik during the visit to the Small Animal Clinic and the Exotic Animal unit, respectively. Then, we moved to Zalec (56 km far from Ljubljana) to visit the private Clinic where all students – in groups of 2-3 - are now accommodated during one full-immersion week in production animal. Here we met and interviewed Assist. Prof. Podpecan and Assisst. Prof. Vengust. During all visits, adequate time was available to discuss about the organization and caseload of the new emergency services. During a final working lunch, we could thank the Dean for hospitality and collaboration, and inform him about the meetings.

Information which we deem most relevant for the purposes of this report is the following:

1. **A 24 hour 7 days per week emergency service for companion animals has been implemented at the Small Animal Clinic.** It is run, on rotation, by 11 members of the permanent staff and 7 members of the junior (non-permanent)

- staff. Extra money is recognized to both, based on provided duties. There is one responsible for each 8-hour duty;
2. Students join the fore mentioned service during their fifth year. Two compulsory seven day rotations are requested. One-two students are involved per rotation;
  3. In the first four months since implementation of the service (October 2010 – January 2011), the number of admitted cases was 187, namely 104 dogs, 68 cats and 15 other pets. The figure corresponds to approximately 1.6 cases/night;
  4. As in previous years, motivated students may receive – on request - additional exposure to out-of-hours clinical (medical and surgical) activities at the Ljubljana Animal Shelter. In fact, this location has remained very popular amongst students and most of them announce themselves for optional duties in the week-ends (from Friday afternoon to Monday morning);
  5. **A 24 hour 7 days per week emergency service for production animals has been also implemented.** The service is based in Zalec (56 km NE of Ljubljana). It is operated in the frame of an agreement between the Faculty and a local clinic, whose Director, Dr. O. Podpecan, is Assistant Professor of the University of Ljubljana and Diplomat of the European College of Bovine Health Management (ECBHM). It is run, on rotation, by three practitioners (the Director included). The practice treats a total of 8500 cattle, including 5000 dairy cows;
  6. Students have to join the emergency service for production animals when in their fifth year. They remain on duty during a non-stop week, in small groups of 2-3. During this week, they are located in comfortable individual rooms at the Clinic;
  7. From the Clinic, students move to farms with the on duty veterinarian. On return, they fill the Clinic register, now being computerized, and may have access to the Internet for additional information on the observed pathologies. Cases in the register are signed by the responsible practitioner. A note for the whole week is assigned by Assist. Prof. Vengust, which is permanent member of the teaching staff and Course Coordinator, based on the registered cases and a broad evaluation by the Clinic's Director. The clinical practice is under the strict supervision of the faculty;
  8. In the first four months since implementation of the service (October 2010 – January 2011), the number of recorded emergency cases was 214, namely 207

cattle and 7 pigs. The figure corresponds to approximately 1.8 cases/day. It is worth stressing that students on duty were exposed, on average, to additional 9.3 cases/day (mainly cattle), which the Faculty did not classified as emergency cases *sensu stricto*.

- 9. The 24 hour 7 days per week emergency service for equines, which was already operating when the Faculty has been visited in October 2009, has maintained standard and caseload.**

In passing, we were glad to hear that all students in their fourth year are now offered, in groups of 2-3, a one-day training in a pig farm. During this day, students are assigned a litter and are responsible of all preventive medications/vaccinations and minor routine surgery. Moreover, the herd management and health are assessed and preventive/therapeutic measures taken accordingly.

Based on evidence and the information collected during the visit, it is our opinion that the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Ljubljana has positively reacted to requests by the ECOVE and has compensated for the Category One deficiency which determined temporary downgrading to the status of conditionally approved establishment.

Yours faithfully

Budapest/Torino, 2 April 2011

Dr. Prof. Laszlo Fodor

Dr. Prof. Luca Rossi

**Ecove decision: FULL APPROVAL**