



**RE-VISITATION REPORT**

**To the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU)  
Munich, Germany**

**On 18 – 20 April 2023**

**By the Re-visitation Team:**

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## **Introduction**

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, LMU, Munich, Germany (called the Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) in this Report) was evaluated by the ESEVT on the 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2022.

The previous Full Visitation (FV) team found a delay of 4 years in the elaboration, discussion with all interested parties and implementation of the new Strategic and Operating plans and the absence of an adequate system to monitor the EPT activities.

These findings led to the identification of two Major Deficiencies:

Major Deficiency 1: Non-compliance with Substandard 1.3 because of the 4-year delay in the elaboration, discussion with internal and external stakeholders, and adoption by the Faculty Council of the new strategic plan and operating plan.

Major Deficiency 2: Non-compliance with Standard 3.7 because of the absence of a robust system to monitor and assess the EPT activities.

Additionally, areas of concern (minor deficiencies) were identified by the team:

1. Partial compliance with Standard 1.2 because of suboptimal monitoring of the implementation of the previous strategic plan.
2. Partial compliance with Standard 3.1 because of suboptimal hands-on training in companion animal surgery.
3. Partial compliance with Standard 3.6 due to suboptimal evaluation of the performance of the students by the EPT provider.
4. Partial compliance with Standard 4.4 because of suboptimal collaboration between internal medicine and surgery departments in companion animal species.
5. Partial compliance with Standard 8.5 because of suboptimal formal assessment of the acquisition by all students of the D1Cs.

The decision by ECOVE, who met on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, was Non-Accreditation status.

The Re-visitation Self-Evaluation Report was provided to the Re-visitation Team on time and contained pertinent information, along with the Annexes relevant to the identified deficiencies.

The Re-visitation was well prepared and well organised by the VEE. It was performed in a cordial working atmosphere, in agreement with the ESEVT SOP 2019 as amended in December 2020.

## **1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies**

### **1.1. Major Deficiency 1: Non-compliance with Substandard 1.3 because of the 4-year delay in the elaboration, discussion with internal and external stakeholders, and adoption by the Faculty Council of the new strategic plan and operating plan.**

#### **1.1.1. Findings**

The Directors for the Department of Veterinary Sciences and Executive Board of the Centre for Clinical Veterinary Medicine (CCVM) formed a committee including the Director of the Centre for Clinical Veterinary Medicine, the Dean, the Liaison Officer for the EAEVE visitation and the business manager of the Centre for Clinical Veterinary Medicine and developed a detailed new specific strategic plan for the CCVM. This plan was discussed and subsequently approved by the Executive Committee of the Centre for Clinical Veterinary Medicine. Afterwards, a draft of the joint Strategic Plan for the complete Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was formulated by the Dean, the Vice-Dean for Student Affairs and members of the Strategic Committee of the Faculty, which, in turn, was presented, discussed and approved by various stakeholders (alumni, students, faculty and academic and non-academic staff), in the Faculty Council during their meeting on December 8th, 2022. External ad hoc advisors in key political positions in Bavaria were asked for and provided input.

The approved Strategic plan for 2023-2029 has clearly set objectives, a SWOT analysis and includes an action plan which has the educational welfare of the students at its centre.

#### **1.1.2. Comments**

The delay in revising the 2012 Strategic plan, and also in drafting new Strategic and Operational plans, was caused by the effort of the VEE to solve the immediate problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in teaching the students. The VEE started drafting the new plans immediately after the FV in 2022, based on previous drafts of the Directors for the Departments of Veterinary Sciences. The process was completed by the final vote of the Faculty Council, including various stakeholders, also the representatives of the Bavarian government, representatives of the professional organisations, and external ad hoc advisors holding key political positions.

#### **1.1.3. Suggestions**

The VEE is encouraged to continue the implementation, and follow-up of the newly approved Strategic and Operational plans, monitoring the deadlines for fulfilment of the tasks by designated members in charge.

#### **1.1.4. Decision**

The Major Deficiency 1 (“Non-compliance with Substandard 1.3 because of the 4-year delay in the elaboration, discussion with internal and external stakeholders, and adoption by the Faculty Council of the new strategic plan and operating plan.”) has been fully corrected.

### **1.2. Major Deficiency 2: Non-compliance with Standard 3.7 because of the absence of a robust system to monitor and assess the EPT activities.**

#### **1.2.1. Findings**

Since May 2022, a new logbook including a list of D1C (clinical practical skills, documentation skills and soft skills) has been introduced to authenticate the students EPT, extramural and intramural practical training as well as their opinion on that. The development and process

benefitted from the setting up of the logbook committee and the development of a specific SOP.

The EPT provider confirms by signature the students' participation, while the clinician on duty in each compartment signs for the activities completed by the student. At least two thoroughly documented case reports are evaluated and approved/signed by the supervising clinician.

Further, the mandatory acquisition of D1C is confirmed by an authorised person, out of members of the faculty who are either Diplomats of the various veterinary specialty colleges or those holding the equivalent national speciality qualifications ("Fachtierarzt"). The authorised Faculty member signature page is subsequently sent to the Examination Office, and starting in 2024 is a requirement to register for the final state examination. In a case where the student did not fulfil the core skills, he/she can address those in the VTH; control mechanisms are in place and correction of shortcomings is compulsory. One of the clinicians responsible for the last week of the rotation is the authorised faculty member who checks the acquisition of D1C, controls the logbook and advises on any correction.

A three-monthly revision of the logbooks is currently taking place and will switch to once yearly, as more experience in this field will be acquired.

### **1.2.2. Comments**

According to the German TAppV (*Verordnung zur Approbation von Tierärztinnen und Tierärzten*, Ordinance on the licensing of veterinarians), there is no legal ground for the VEE to oblige external practitioners that provide EPTs to assess the logbook, it is more based on the option of the students when choosing the EPT location to benefit of such an assessment. Every practitioner who practices within the profession for at least two years, is an acknowledged professional, has an approved pharmacy can provide an EPT location for the students and the VEE must accept such a mentor, while the externships need to be accepted concurring with the German law. A nationwide programme for all German veterinary faculties is in progress, aiming at training practitioners in online seminars to assess veterinary students during EPT in accordance with the EAEVE guidelines.

The VEE is considering a digital logbook when a nationwide decision on the exact standard format, approved by all German VEEs will be available.

### **1.2.3. Suggestions**

The VEE should seek additional ways and means to motivate the EPT providers to assess the quality of the logbooks and advise the students on acquisition of D1C.

### **1.2.4. Decision**

The Major Deficiency 2 ("Non-compliance with Standard 3.7 because of the absence of a robust system to monitor and assess the EPT activities.") has been fully corrected.

## **2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies**

### **2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: Partial compliance with Standard 1.2 because of suboptimal monitoring of the implementation of the previous strategic plan.**

#### **2.1.1. Findings**

Prior to the formulation of the 2023-2029 Strategic plan, the VEE provided evidence of follow up on the objectives set in the 2012 Strategic plan, including the increasing of the quality and quantity of materials offered on its Moodle platform, providing an online discussion forum for students and faculty in several, but not all specialties and subjects, providing online

communication between teachers and students via Moodle, introducing written examinations in addition to the oral ones and also a new examination software Ucan to improve the examination process. New research areas as Translational Medicine and Reproductive Medicine, facilitating cooperation with human medicine and enhancing initiation of research projects, were implemented. There was an increase in academic staff numbers by hiring in areas such as fish biology, food hygiene, small animal surgery, porcine medicine, internal medicine and surgery of ruminants, surgery and regenerative medicine, parasitology, physiology, pathology and reproduction. Graduate students can now apply in a new field of PhD studies offered by the VEE, that of Life Sciences and Neuroscience supervised by members of faculty.

The VEE initiated measures to ensure future compliance with the continuous monitoring process of the implementation of the Strategic plan including: biannual meetings of the Strategic Committee, annual teaching retreat (a meeting outside Munich, where the entire academic staff can discuss their opinions, suggestions, complaints), annual research retreat, discussion of the strategic plan annually in the faculty council (7-8 meetings/year).

### **2.1.2. Comments**

The goals set by the 2012 Strategic plan were partially met, therefore the new Strategic plan continued some of those, but also replaced others which were considered obsolete through time. Among those, improving the gender proportion of veterinarians with a PhD or habilitation thesis (66% of which were female nowadays) and further improve the third level education by broadening the spectrum of PhD programs (e.g. One Health) were considered.

### **2.1.3. Suggestions**

None.

## **2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: Partial compliance with Standard 3.1 because of suboptimal hands-on training in companion animal surgery**

### **2.2.1. Findings**

In 2020, the Executive Council of the Centre for Clinical Veterinary Medicine approved a fusion, also supported by external advisors and members of the Central University Administration, between the companion animal surgery clinic and the companion animal medicine clinic, which is in progress. This fusion, through an improved management of the facilities and caseload, was meant to also increase hands-on experience of the students and their involvement in the treatment of surgical patients, which was practically implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023.

### **2.2.2. Comments**

Such a change in the practical approach of surgical cases is in line with the EAEVE vision on clinical training, thus allowing an enhancement of the acquisition of D1C.

### **2.2.3. Suggestions**

The VEE should pursue the accomplishment of the fusion and implementation of the decision of the Executive Council of the Centre for Clinical Veterinary Medicine of 2020 and continuously monitor the progress and efficacy of the process.

**2.3. Minor Deficiency 3: Partial compliance with Standard 3.5 due to suboptimal evaluation of the performance of the students by the EPT provider.**

**2.3.1. Findings**

A standardized nationwide ‘fill-in form’ to assess the practical training of the students during EPT by the EPT provider is already in place and included in the logbook.

**2.3.2. Comments**

The fill-in form will provide a further enhancement to the logbook and facilitate its use. See 1.2.2. on legal German provisions.

**2.3.3. Suggestions**

None.

**2.4. Minor Deficiency 4: Partial compliance with Standard 4.4 because of suboptimal collaboration between internal medicine and surgery departments in companion animal species.**

**2.4.1. Findings**

The creation of a unified Small Animal Clinic has commenced, unifying the companion animal medicine clinic and companion animal surgery. This fusion was approved by the Executive Council of the Centre for Clinical Veterinary Medicine and supported by External advisors, members of the Central University Administration leadership and Executive Committee since 2020 (also see 2.2.1).

**2.4.2. Comments**

Progress has been observed following the recent initiation of the fusion process. Nevertheless, given the size of both clinical segments, the fusion is a time-consuming process, where the progress has to be closely monitored and all changes have to serve the benefit of the students and acquisition by those of DIC.

**2.4.3. Suggestions**

None.

**2.5. Minor Deficiency 5: Partial compliance with Standard 8.5 because of suboptimal formal assessment of the acquisition by all students of the DICs.**

**2.4.1. Findings**

See 1.2.1.

**2.4.2. Comments**

There is a clear path within the procedure to control the students’ logbooks, which allows the academic staff and authorised academic personnel to evaluate the student activity and the extent of DICs’ acquisition by each individual student.

**2.4.3. Suggestions**

None.

### **3. ESEVT Indicators**

The FV of 2022 revealed that some of the indicators were below the minimal requirements indicated of the 2019 SOP as amended in December 2020. Since then, the number of hours of practical (non-clinical) training (I4) increased as well as the number of companion animal patients seen extramurally, as numbers, but the indicator (I12) still stays low. Nevertheless, there is strong compensation of this indicator by the no. of companion animal cases seen intramurally (I8). Indicators I14 (n° of equine patients seen extramurally / n° of students graduating annually) which is to some extent compensated by the intramurally examined cases, I17 (n° of companion animal necropsies) and I18 (n° of ruminant and pig necropsies) remained in the negative range. The strategy in place to continue increasing the caseloads within all species of animals is meant to ensure that the VEE meets the requirements outlined in the EAEVE SOP.

### **4. Conclusions**

The VEE is to be commended for significant improvements which were noticed by the Re-visitation team in all areas of concern. The VEE is committed to continue the process of improvement in all fields of their activity.

The Major Deficiencies identified during the Full Visitation done on 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 (Major Deficiency 1: “Non-compliance with Substandard 1.3 because of the 4-year delay in the elaboration, discussion with internal and external stakeholders, and adoption by the Faculty Council of the new strategic plan and operating plan.” and Major Deficiency 2: “Non-compliance with Standard 3.7 because of the absence of a robust system to monitor and assess the EPT activities.”) have been addressed and fully corrected by the VEE.

Advancements were observed in all areas related to all Minor Deficiencies, some of them being entirely corrected. The VEE is encouraged to continue on their improvement path.

## **Decision of ECOVE**

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiencies identified after the Full Visitation on 20 – 24 June 2022 had been corrected.

The Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) of the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich is therefore classified as holding the status of: **ACCREDITATION**.