

**European Association  
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**

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



**RE-VISITATION REPORT**

**To the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Olsztyn (FVMO), Poland**

**On 01-02 March 2016**

**By the Re-visitation Team:**

**Karl Schellander (Bonn, Germany): Chairperson**

**Pierre Lekeux (Liege, Belgium): ESEVT Coordinator**

## **Introduction**

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Olsztyn (FVMO), Poland was evaluated by ESEVT in May 2012. The decision by ECOVE who met in January 2013 was 'Conditional Approval' because of the identification of 1 Major Deficiency, i.e. 'Necropsies for instructional purposes are insufficient'.

The Re-visitation Self Evaluation Report (RSER) (Interim Report) was provided on time to the Re-visitation Team and contained all relevant information.

The Re-visitation was well prepared and well organised by the FVMO. It was performed in agreement with the ESEVT 2012 (Budapest) SOP.

### **1. Correction of the Major Deficiency** ('Necropsies for instructional purposes are insufficient')

#### **1.1. Findings**

During the past three years (2012 - 2014), the numbers of necropsies of food producing animals increased significantly compared to the period from 2008 - 2011. For instance, the number of necropsied cattle increased from 14 to 192, the number of small ruminants increased from 13 to 140 and the number of necropsied horses increased from 19 to 43.

This has been achieved by (i) an increased finance support from the FVMO to the Department of Pathological Anatomy (DPA) for cadaver transport to and from the DPA; (ii) by an increased collaboration between local large animals practitioners and the DPA. Practitioners inform the DPA in case of death animals which are picked up by a commercial company and transported to the DPA where they are necropsied.

Furthermore the cooperation with the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) has been improved and carcasses together with their medical history are delivered from them to the DPA.

A commercial carcass transport company has been put under contract to transport the carcasses upon request of either the DPA, the owner or the practitioner.

#### **1.2. Comments**

Ratios R18 has increased from 1:0,8 to 1:1,2, R19 from 1:8,38 to 1:8,79 and R20 from 1:2,04 to 1:2,86. All three indicators are now above the recommended minimal values. Especially cattle, small ruminant und horse necropsies increased significantly.

The faculty has optimised the supply of food producing animals for necropsy by activating the collaboration with the local practitioners and the academic clinicians and by contracting a commercial cadavers' transport company.

#### **1.3. Suggestions**

None.

#### **1.4. Decision of the Re-visitation team**

The Major Deficiency ("Necropsies for instructional purposes are insufficient") has been fully corrected.

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

### **2.1. Findings**

As described in the RSER (Interim Report) and observed on site, the FVMO has fully implemented some suggestions of improvement proposed by the previous Visitation Team.

For instance, a Strategic Plan (2013-2020) has been adopted with clear objectives, operational plan, milestones, indicators of achievement and a review every 3 years.

The FVMO has gained more financial autonomy mainly because of a self-financing programme and an annual grant of 420,000 euros linked to the gained status of Leading National Research Centre. A financial report is proposed each year and the last annual budgets were well balanced. Early stage handling experience with food producing animals and distinct teaching of rural economics have been introduced in the core curriculum. The inter-connectivity of the various clinical teaching facilities and the patient flow through these have been improved.

The time spent on food spoilage and on a risk-based approach to ensuring food safety and quality has been increased and the concept 'farm to fork' is well developed.

Each student has now a tutor and the teachers are evaluated by the students on a cyclical basis. Reward or remediation is implemented accordingly.

The fire extinguishers are checked for their validity and facilities for disabled people have been developed.

Biosecurity procedures have been implemented and all bio-hazard areas are now clearly marked. In addition to the regional (legal) Ethics Committee, the FVMO has a Team of Animal Welfare Consultants as well as a dedicated employee who is responsible for animal welfare on the campus.

The access to large animals units of cattle, pigs, small ruminants and horses is now part of the curriculum. A lockable metal container for storage of dangerous drugs is now available in all mobile clinic vehicles.

Undergraduates can develop their research interests by joining one of the 16 Student Research Circles which are very active and participate to scientific projects and events.

For other suggestions, an on-going process has undoubtedly been initiated by the FVMO to achieve these improvements in the near future.

For instance, the University has a plan to reduce the number of Departments in order to increase their inter-connectivity and pool some costs.

E-direct learning is being developed with the Circus platform and is used in support to several courses. Electronic storage of clinical records has been developed and includes most clinical data. More and more e-journals and e-books are available for staff and students through the VPN system.

The number of support staff to veterinary teacher, although still low, has been recently increased.

Two junior staff are involved in a residency programme (in neurology and animal reproduction) in order to become Diplomate of the respective EBVS College.

Several investments and renovations in buildings and facilities for education and research have been completed and there is a plan in order to obtain the funding for the remaining ones.

### **2.2. Comments**

The Re-visitation Team is impressed by the efforts done by the FVMO to also correct the Minor Deficiencies and to implement most suggestions proposed by the previous Visitation Team.

It appears as a good illustration of how a Visitation may help the Establishment to find the ways and the means to further improve its compliance with the ESEVT Standards. The FVMO and

## **FINAL REPORT AS ISSUED BY ECOVE ON 11 MAY 2016**

the University have to be commended for their desire and efficiency to continuously improve the quality of its veterinary education and research.

### **2.3. Suggestions**

The FVMO is encouraged to develop a plan for increasing the number of EBVS Diplomates, especially in clinical disciplines. This would contribute to further increase the caseload and revenues of the VTH.

### **3. Conclusions**

The Re-visitation Team considers that the Major Deficiency identified during the Visitation done in May 2012 (i.e. ‘Necropsies for instructional purposes are insufficient’) has been fully corrected by the Establishment and therefore recommends to ECOVE the status of Approval for the FVMO.

## **ANNEX 1 Decision of ECOVE**

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiency identified in 2012 had been rectified.

The ‘Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Warmia and Masuria in Olsztyn’ is classified after Re-visitation as holding the status of: **APPROVAL**.