

**European Association
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**



RE-VISITATION REPORT

To the Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy

On 11 – 13 November 2019

By the Re-visitation Team:

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Introduction

The Department of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), University of Perugia (UP) was visited by an EAEVE team on 18 – 22 March 2019 and the team's report was issued by ECOVE on 29 May 2019.

The Visitation 18 – 22 March 2019 identified 4 areas of concern (i.e. Minor Deficiencies):

- partial compliance with Substandard 4.7, because of sub-optimal good pharmacy practices and sub-optimal swine husbandry and biosecurity procedures in the teaching farm;
- partial compliance with Substandard 4.13, because of sub-optimal biosecurity procedures in companion animal isolation facilities;
- partial compliance with Substandard 8.5, because of sub-optimal documentation and analysis of assessment outcomes;
- partial compliance with Substandard 11.7, because of sub-optimal QA procedures at the level of the veterinary department.

The Visitation 18 – 22 March 2019 identified one issue, which was not compliant with the ESEVT Standards (i.e. Major Deficiency):

- non-compliance with Substandard 5.1, because of insufficient number of ruminant and pig necropsies.

The DVM, UP was revisited upon request from the Establishment on 11 – 13 November 2019 to verify whether and how the deficiencies had been rectified.

The Re-visitation SER (R-SER) was provided on time and written in agreement with the SOP 2016.

The Visitation was well organised and executed in an absolutely friendly and professional atmosphere. The Liaison Officer did a great job to adapt the schedule of the Re-visitation, to search for the requested information and to organise the relevant meetings.

The ESEVT SOP 2016 is valid for this Re-visitation.

1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies

1.1. Major Deficiency: non-compliance with Substandard 5.1, because of insufficient number of ruminant and pig necropsies

1.1.1. Findings

Concerning food-producing animals, the low number of carcasses addressed to DVM has been closely related to the fact that they are generally brought directly to IZS as an essential part of

the National Veterinary Health Service, which provides a broad panel of free diagnostic services for disease detection. IZS is a regional veterinary institute with more than 200 staff members and physically the IZS is located 10 meters away from the Establishment's section for pathology.

The Establishment has pursued several paths to increase and stabilise the number of animals for pathology at the university.

The agreement between the Establishment and IZS has been updated and improved and the use of the IZS pathology facilities specified and detailed. Student participation in the IZS pathology service is quality assured in accordance with the QA-program of IZS and the QA-program at DVM. A WhatsApp chat has been created to inform the Establishment in real time that cadavers are submitted for necropsy. Results of necropsies performed by students and supervising DVM staff at the IZS are recorded electronically so that gross pictures and macroscopic descriptions of cases can be used for teaching purposes.

Electronic records of pathology samples at IZS and the Establishment are kept in parallel and can be sought in parallel. Establishment pathologists are participating in all necropsies performed at IZS where students are involved.

Currently 2 residents in pathology are doing alternative residencies under the supervision of the 3 EBVS board certified pathologists at the Establishment's pathology section.

The Establishment has strengthened the collaboration with farmers in order to receive farm animal cadavers. This initiative includes a more systematic DVM service of dead animal collection with the university transport vehicles. However, transportation of large size cadavers (above the size of piglets, lambs and calves) is taken care of by IZS.

Further to this, procedures have been strengthened to secure owner consent to necropsy animals dying or euthanised at the university teaching hospital. And dead wild birds and exotic animals in the Umbria region have been redirected from IZS to the university pathology section. A new PhD project on flavivirus infections in wild birds has been initiated leading to an increase in relevant material for pathology.

Finally, the fluctuations in students graduating (71 – 107/year) has been stabilised at a lower level due to a permanent reduction in class size to 55 students/year.

1.1.2. Comments

The Establishment has made considerable and successful efforts to increase the availability of production animal cadavers for pathology training of veterinary students. And this has been followed closely by facilitating acceptance of necropsies of companion animals and wildlife.

Since the site visit in March 2019 a new academic year has begun and the ratios have been calculated for a new array of consecutive years showing clearly that all the initiatives (e.g. reduced class size, increased numbers of carcasses for pathology in the Establishment, improved relations with IZS) have had a significant influence on the indicators which are all within the acceptable limits now.

1.1.3. Suggestions

The agreement with IZS must be monitored closely and constantly to make sure that fluctuations in students' exposure to production animal pathology are minimised.

The acquisition of relevant vehicles for transportation of larger size cadavers for pathology should be considered for a lower priority as long as the cooperation agreement with IZS is effective.

1.1.4. Decision

The Establishment has rectified the Major Deficiency and is compliant with Standard 5, Substandard 5.1.

2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies

2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: partial compliance with Substandard 4.7, because of sub-optimal good pharmacy practices and sub-optimal swine husbandry and biosecurity procedures in the teaching farm

2.1.1. Findings

a) Teaching farm (AZD)

The access to the teaching farm has been modified. There is a different car park for personnel and visitors.

The biosecurity measures are clearly posted at the entrance of the farm, with the possibility to disinfect boots by walking through a bath with disinfectant.

There is a brand new building dedicated to housing six sows and piglets, according to welfare standards. Each section has direct access to a courtyard, and if necessary to a grass field.

All animals will be able to express their natural behaviour.

b) Pharmacy procedures (VTH)

The software (SIOVUD) which is constructed at DVM has been improved by taking into account a unique site for drug purchasing procedure. Then, the drugs are disseminated and registered in each service, and the administration registered for every hospitalised animal. This procedure can be followed in real time on PCs and tablets. Storage of narcotics and opioids is secured in a closed room with restricted access to vets on duty. There is a special code to open each box and a document to register entrance and delivery of drugs. Further to this, the area is controlled by CCTV.

2.1.2. Comments

It is appreciated that great efforts are made to improve the facilities in the teaching farm, including renovation and reconstruction of some of the most important buildings.

The biosecurity procedures are now in place and will be automatically continued after the total renovation ongoing at the farm.

At the VTH, it is easy to follow the drugs, with good traceability, from entrance to administration, with secured access for narcotics etc.

2.1.3. Suggestions

None.

2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: partial compliance with Substandard 4.13, because of sub-optimal biosecurity procedures in companion animal isolation facilities

2.2.1. Findings

As indicated in the March 2019 report, the isolation facilities for small animals were sub-optimal because of biosafety procedures.

Since then the Establishment has cleared the old dog kennel (about 90 m²) facility totally and the University is paying for a full renovation including internal and external access facilities with changing rooms, lockers, shower facilities, laundry, washing machine for mobile cages, separate exam rooms for dogs and cats, permanent underpressure (10 pascal below normal) at the air flow, separate collection of waste water, cadavers, other biological material etc.

During the Re-visitation the university engineer, the project architect, the project manager, the leader of the working commission and the Establishment representative explained very clearly the whole process. The room was ready to be rebuilt and a building plan was presented to the

Team at the building place. This plan included an invitation to the Team to participate in the opening of the facility in week 25, 2020.

2.2.2. Comments

The projected isolation facility will belong to some of the best and most modern small animal isolation facilities in veterinary teaching hospitals.

The staff representing the whole procedure of the complicated construction process readily answered all questions from the Team.

2.2.3. Suggestions

The Team suggests that the Establishment sends photos to the Team and the EAEVE Office when the construction of the isolation facility incl. the built-in biosecurity measures is finalised and by that the Establishment has rectified the Minor Deficiency.

2.3. Minor Deficiency 3: partial compliance with Substandard 8.5, because of sub-optimal documentation and analysis of assessment outcomes

2.3.1. Findings

After setting up a working group on this issue, proposals have been analysed and approved first by the Peer Didactic Committee (PDC), and finally approved by the Degree course council (DCC).

Concerning the assessment strategy, to improve the coherence of the system, there is now a clear review and definition of the link between competencies and skills as shown in the log-book.

In order to clarify grading criteria, it has been decided to introduce written exams, in addition to oral and practical exams already in place. There will be an assessment of this new strategy by teachers and students, according to the last remark made by the Visitation Team during the full Visitation.

There will be a possibility to check on the IT system the position of each student regarding the achievement and progression in their studies.

2.3.2. Comments

The setting up of this new assessment method in a very short period of time is a unique performance, and teachers and students are encouraged to continue the good work together towards a better understanding of the progression in acquisition of knowledge.

2.3.3. Suggestions

None.

2.4. Minor Deficiency 4: partial compliance with Substandard 11.7, because of sub-optimal QA procedures at the level of the veterinary department

2.4.1. Findings

Following the Visitation, the Establishment has established a fast-working group to expand the QA-system on the 4 major issues viz. **1.** Linking the overall degree course outcomes to the European Qualifications Framework level 7. **2.** Combining the Establishment guidelines with the UP-guidelines in a more comprehensive way to clearly link roles and responsibilities in both QA-systems. **3.** A number of actions to monitor and evaluate customer and student satisfaction

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with e.g. weekly collection and aggregation of questionnaires. Also including maximum times for diagnostic laboratory results to be disseminated to the users. **4.** A long-term concerted action to embrace the overall quality enhancement obtained by adapting and personalising the overall UP QA-strategy to include all aspects of the veterinary area.

To follow-up on the working group efforts, a Quality Commission has been established.

2.4.2. Comments

The Establishment has launched a massive effort to adapt and personalise the QA-systems at university and department levels following the Visitation. The Team reckons that this is an important step towards a future QA-system which would be an example of best practice to the university and sister establishments.

However, this is a long-term mission where the end result will not be achieved until several PCDA-cycles have been performed and honed.

2.4.3. Suggestions

To reduce risks of redundancy and the establishment of counterproductive QA-procedures, it is suggested to closely monitor the effects of all the initiatives and be prepared to modify procedures accordingly. This could be pursued at an overall level in the Quality Commission.

3. ESEVT Indicators

Name of the Establishment:		Department of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Perugia (Italy)			
Date of the form filling:		August 31st, 2019			
Calculated Indicators from raw data		Establishment values	Median values ¹	Minimal values ²	Balance ³
I1	n° of FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate students	0.167	0.16	0.13	0.041
I2	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.951	0.87	0.59	0.362
I3	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.755	0.94	0.57	0.188
I4	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	1071.500	905.67	595.00	476.500
I5	n° of hours of clinical training	817.167	932.92	670.00	147.167
I6	n° of hours of FSQ & VPH training	264.167	287.00	174.40	89.767
I7	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	82.000	68.00	28.80	53.200
I8	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	63.578	70.48	42.01	21.568
I9	n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0.718	2.69	0.46	0.255
I10	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	7.854	5.05	1.30	6.556
I11	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	4.083	3.35	1.55	2.537
I12	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0.000	6.80	0.22	-0.223
I13	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	14.806	15.95	6.29	8.511
I14	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0.000	2.11	0.60	-0.595
I15	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	8.689	1.33	0.55	8.142
I16	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually	0.476	0.12	0.04	0.431
I17	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	2.039	2.07	1.40	0.639
I18	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	1.039	2.32	0.97	0.068
I19	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0.728	0.30	0.09	0.635
I20	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	1.830	2.05	0.69	1.137
I21*	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0.199	0.20	0.06	0.136
I22*	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually	0.136	0.15	0.09	0.048
1	Median values defined by data from Establishments with Approval status in April 2016				
2	Recommended minimal values calculated as the 20th percentile of data from Establishments with Approval status in April 2016				
3	A negative balance indicates that the Indicator is below the recommended minimal value				
*	Indicators used only for statistical purpose				

3.1. Findings

The Indicators presented for the Team in March 2019 have been changed significantly because the Re-visitation took place in a new academic year (albeit within the same year). It means that all the figures have changed and a new Y-1 has been added.

All values are now within the designated limits.

3.2. Comments

Despite the short period between the Visitation and the Re-visitation, it is evident that the Establishment is working in a focused way and has issued several changes to permanently correct the Major as well as the Minor Deficiencies.

3.3. Suggestions

Permanent control of the fulfilment of the criteria for all indicators as part of the refined QA-procedures is suggested.

4. Conclusions

The Major Deficiency identified during the full Visitation in 2019 has been fully corrected.

Decision of ECOVE

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiency identified in 2019 had been corrected.

The Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Perugia is therefore classified as holding the status of: **ACCREDITATION**.