

**European Association
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**

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



**REPORT ON THE REVISITATION TO THE FACULTY OF VETERINARY
MEDICINE, BANAT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND
VETERINARY MEDICINE, TIMISOARA, ROMANIA**

13 – 14 October 2014

by the EXPERT GROUP

Visitor on Training in Animal Production

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FINAL REPORT AS ISSUED BY ECOVE ON 10 DECEMBER 2014

In October 2014 the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Timisoara, Romania was revisited to evaluate the progress done in solving the major deficiencies identified in the first visit in 2010.

The decision by ECOVE following this visit in 2010 was: NOT APPROVED.

The major deficiencies which led to this decision were:

1. There is an insufficient number of large animal necropsies; a large and newly built room is laid out for necropsies, but relevant equipment and facilities for large animal necropsies such as electric saws, cooling rooms, cranes, adequate tables, arrangements to dispose of large animal cadavers and biosecurity measures were not in place

2. There is an insufficient number of cadavers for dissection performed by students

3. The isolation facilities for large animals were not suitable for the purpose with broken windows, a makeshift door, open gutters in the middle of the large room, no washing or disinfection facilities, and no biosecurity measures

4. The flooring of the large animal clinic was not adequate (holes, slippery when wet).

5. The amount of modern, clinical equipment including state of the art X-ray equipment was low.

6. No registered survey and vaccination (e.g. against rabies) and control of tattoo marks or chips of the numerous stray dogs in the university campus was in place, rendering an unacceptable risk of spreading rabies to other animals including farm animals as the stray dogs followed students and staff into the stables.

7. In general biosecurity measures were not strict or adhered to (students supposed to buy their own rubber gloves, students or staff not wearing washable foot wear on the farm premises, parasitological examination of intestinal contents performed on the floor, dissection performed in a room with fresh plants at the window sills and no possibility of hosing it down after use, the same inadequate procedure being performed by students doing pathology on single organs in a room that could not be hosed down)

8. The teaching in herd health medicine was uncoordinated and not living up to modern standards and did not take advantage of the animals at the 2 university farms.

Status of the faculty as decided by ECOVE December 2010: NOT APPROVED.

Three years after these events, a revisit was requested by the Faculty.

Prior to the visit the Team received a copy of the letter sent to ECOVE by the Dean, and annual lists from the years 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013 of the changes done addressing each of the 8 Major deficiencies and a sufficient program for the revisit team to cover the issues mentioned in the 2010 report.

During its stay the team was guided through a program designed to see the improvements that had been made since 2010.

Everything was very well prepared and the reception was very professional and simultaneously very warm, catering for the needs of the team at all times.

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The visit started Monday morning with a brief meeting with the dean, vice deans and a number of senior professors:

- Prof. Viorel Herman, Dean
- Prof. Sorin Morariu, Vice Dean
- Prof. Ileana Nichita, Vice Dean
- Prof. Emil Tirziu, Dept. IV
- Prof. Teodor Mot, Dept. II
- Prof. Ion Oprescu, Dept. III
- Prof. Marius Pentea, Dept. I

and the remit of the revisit was presented to the Faculty.

The team split up with Peleteiro and Duffus going through the on-campus facilities and Dietz visiting a large, private farm to watch herd health management practiced with a group of students and to discuss this issue with teachers and students.

The team's findings are mentioned below

1. Since the last visitation in 2010 there has been a considerable effort to improve the facilities at the building which had been built specifically for necropsies. Such improvements included:
 - a. Biosecurity facilities now present for entry of both animal material and humans.
 - b. Separate entrances are in place for entry of animal material and staff/students.
 - c. There is now adequate equipment such as electric saws, stainless steel tables and freezers for carcass material.
 - d. Arrangements are now in place for the disposal of carcasses/tissues every 48 hrs.
 - e. Students are well supplied with biosecurity clothing such as disposable gloves, plastic sleeves, washable aprons and disposable overshoes.
 - f. It was also apparent that the actual number of necropsies has increased providing all students with sufficient material from different species.
2. Since the last visitation in 2010 there have been major improvements in the dissection of cadavers.
 - a. Fresh cadavers of several species (horses, ruminants, pigs, dogs, cats, birds, rabbits) are now used. The table below shows numerically the number of dissections per year and per species

Species for dissection	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Horses	5	12	3
Ruminants	14	30	24
Pigs	151	212	280
Dogs	140	253	71
Cats	9	with dogs	with dogs
Birds	50	142	132
Rabbits	10	11	1
Others		10	

- b. Students now work on stainless steel tables in groups of four
 - c. Students have their own instruments to use together with a supply of scalpels provided by the faculty
 - d. The dissection room is easily cleaned and free of extraneous objects
3. The new premises for the isolation of large animals represent a significant improvement since 2010. The new room is close to the rooms used for infectious diseases practicals. They comprise large boxes that can accommodate two large animals. The walls are

covered with tiles up to two and a half meters. The floor is concrete, not ideal for disinfection but easily washable and non slippery. The wash basin is located opposite to the unique door, which is the common entrance for the animals and the people attending them.

There are two small animals isolation units. One for dogs and one for cats, covered with tiles and provided with an easily washable floor.

In spite of the these improvements, there is still room for improvement with biosafety measures (see #7).

4. Since the visitation in 2010 the flooring has been substantively improved within the large animal clinical facility. This is an ongoing situation as they are still building an extension of the large animal clinical area which will predominately be used for equine cases. The type of flooring now installed is non-slip and easily washable. Although the stabling for the equine patients is currently poor, the current building work underway is about to rectify this situation.
5. The new facilities that were built within the scope of the EU co-financed program accommodate new and modern equipment for diagnosis in small animal medicine including digital Rx, CT scan and eccodoppler. The team has seen the Rx and the eccodoppler being used with the involvement of students.
6. Since the last visitation in 2010, when the EAEVE visitors encountered large numbers of loose dogs, the situation has greatly improved.
 - a. No loose dogs were seen.
 - b. Students (under the supervision of members of staff) have undertaken a programme of registered vaccinations, neutering and adoption of the stray animals.
 - c. There has been a widespread programme to make students more aware of the zoonotic risks of rabies.
 - d. Students are recommended to obtain rabies vaccination but this is not mandatory.
7. The general understanding of biosecurity measures has clearly improved since the 2010 evaluation. Whenever dealing with fresh material as practical lectures in Anatomy and Parasitology, students were wearing lab coats, disposable gloves and head caps. Indeed the team witnessed that immediately following our recommendations disposable aprons and shoes were also available.

Biosafety was correctly present in Pathology as students were wearing lab coats, disposable aprons, sleeve protectors and shoe covers. Also, the concept of separation between clean and dirty areas in Pathology was assured by the presence of trays with mats impregnated in disinfectant.

Nonetheless, the team got the impression that some minor points could still be implemented, in order to achieve an even higher level of biosafety, by taking into consideration the following suggestions:

 - a. Shoes and frontal protection should be more effective through the use of rubber boots and washable aprons, owned by the faculty or by the students themselves.
 - b. Facilities for boot washing and disinfection should be available assuring that the students are responsible for their cleaning and do not take dirty boots and aprons home.
 - c. Regarding the isolation units, a clear separation between clean and dirty areas has to be assured making it easy for the staff in charge to change clothes and dispose of dirty items.
 - d. A member of the teaching staff could be appointed to help supervise that biosafety measures are implemented.

8. The teaching in herd health management was checked by a visit to the Gataia farm (privately owned by MAXAGRO with 1100 heads of dairy cattle, on-site feed production (which is also sold to other farmers)) which is located around 45 kilometers south of the Faculty close to the village Birda. During the visit 5th year students were doing reproduction control under the supervision of Professor Calin Mircu, the local veterinarian and a zootechnician. All students were involved in all stages of the work, Students were asked about principles of herd health management, and supplied information that relevant electronic systems were available. All data (milk cell count, microbiology, total milk production/cow, fat content etc) is available for students for calculations and simulations.

For reproduction and gynecology the students are trained according to two programs: Taurine 4 made by *ELITE SOFT MEDIA SRL* and Westfalia Surge Dairy Plan C 21 Version 5.2. Furthermore the Westfalia program is present in the farms where students were doing their instructions and practice.

The main teaching in Herd Health Management is undertaken by the Reproduction Dept (Dept. II) and assisted by important elements of teaching from the other departments. The teaching is done in an integrated way combining sheep pathology, swine pathology, pet animal pathology, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, infectious disease and parasitology/dermatology in all species.

Theoretical and practical instruction is done in around 55 private farms of varying size reflecting the local farm structure. .

An official logbook (ISBN 978-973-52-1064-9) titled **Day one skills** is issued to each student who reports the subjects and receives a teacher's signature when the skills are correctly acquired.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has benefited in the last four years from a EU co-financed program: "Development of research, education and services infrastructures in the domains of veterinary medicine and innovative technologies for the RO 05 region". The budget of the program was 10 million euros. The new buildings have added 7000 m² to the premises of the school, having also provided support for the acquisition of a large number of items of modern equipment. The benefits for the Faculty of the implementation of the program were clear in many areas the Team had the opportunity to visit (food hygiene, large animal facilities, hospital facilities and equipment, pathology etc). We recommend that ECOVE makes a point of the rector's promise in its report to the institution.

The team's recommendation for the ECOVE is:

Based on the fact that the Faculty has rectified 8 out of 8 major deficiencies we recommend that the Faculty be granted Full APPROVAL.

Annex 1 Decision of ECOVE

The Category 1 deficiencies identified in 2010 have been rectified.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Timisoara is classified after revisitation as holding the status of: **APPROVAL**