



RE-VISITATION REPORT

To the National Veterinary School of Toulouse (ENVT), Toulouse, France

On 26 – 28 April 2022

By the Re-visitation Team:

Yngvild Wasteson, Ås, Norway: Chairperson

Pierre Lekeux, Liège, Belgium: ESEVT Coordinator

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Introduction

The National Veterinary School of Toulouse (ENVT) (called the Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) in this Report) was evaluated by ESEVT on March 9-13, 2020.

In the Visitation report that was submitted to ECOVE, the team pointed to several areas in the veterinary teaching programme worthy of praise. However, insufficient standard of core clinical facility for ruminants, insufficient 24/7 emergency services for equines, as well as on-call service for ruminants, and inadequacy of isolation facilities for equine and ruminant species were identified as Major Deficiencies. In addition, the Visitation team identified some Minor Deficiencies.

These findings led to the identification of the following Major Deficiencies under ESEVT Standard 4:

1. Non-compliance with Substandard 4.3. because the ruminant core clinical facility is not of a high standard and does not promote the best husbandry, management, welfare, and biosecurity practices.
2. Non-compliance with Substandard 4.4 was found because of the absence of a 24/7 service for equine species at the VTH, the absence of an on-call service for ruminants and the absence of state-of-the-art standards in the ruminant and equine teaching clinics.
3. Non-compliance with Substandard 4.6 was found because of inadequacy of isolation facilities for equine and ruminant species.

Additionally, some areas of concern (Minor Deficiencies) were identified by the team:

1. Partial compliance with Substandard 4.1 because of sub-optimal compliance of some of the physical facilities with relevant legislation concerning biosecurity and EU animal welfare and care standards.
2. Partial compliance with Substandard 4.9 because of sub-optimal posting of biosecurity signs in some areas where students are trained.
3. Partial compliance with Substandard 5.1 because there was a sub-optimal number and variety of carcasses for anatomy and necropsy.
4. Partial compliance with Substandard 8.5 was found because of sub-optimal use of a logbook system for recording of clinical skills.

On June 17, 2020, ECOVE made the decision that the status of the VEE was Non-accreditation.

The Re-visitation Self Evaluation Report (RSER) and the Annexes, describing the progress and including the anti-COVID-19 measures applied to ensure the VEE's appropriate functioning, were provided to the Re-visitation Team on time and contained the relevant information. The RSER was

informative, and some pending issues were answered before the onsite Re-visitation. 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 2019 SOP.

1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies

1.1. Major Deficiency 1: Non-compliance with Substandard 4.3. because the ruminant core clinical facility is not of a high standard and does not promote the best husbandry, management, welfare, and biosecurity practices.

1.1.1. Findings

During the full Visitation in 2020, the Visitation team observed that the building process of a new ruminant facility was well advanced. This new ruminant hospital has since been finished and was inaugurated in September 2021. The hospital consists of three separate buildings for animals, including one building designed as an isolation unit for ruminants and equines.

1.1.2. Comments

The unit is of high standard, is adequately built and equipped for its purpose, and promotes good husbandry, management, welfare, and biosecurity practices.

1.1.3. Suggestions

None.

1.1.4. Decision

The Major Deficiency “the ruminant core clinical facility is not of a high standard and does not promote the best husbandry, management, welfare, and biosecurity practices” (Substandard 4.1) has been fully corrected.

1.2. Major Deficiency 2: Non-compliance with Substandard 4.4 because of the absence of a 24/7 service for equine species at the VTH, an inadequate on-call service for ruminants and the absence of state-of-the-art standards in the ruminant and equine teaching clinics.

1.2.1. Findings

The equine hospital now offers a 24/7 service. The academic staff of the hospital has been increased, and now consists of two FTE equine surgeons, three FTE internal medicine veterinarians and four interns. For ophthalmology, an assistant professor from the companion animal hospital contributes with his expertise and service (50 % of his clinical time). The staff in anaesthesiology is shared with the companion animal clinic. This full on-call service is secured and completed by a formal contract with a private clinic to cover for the periods when there are no surgeons available at the VEE.

The equine caseload is in the range of the ESEVT requirements and is increasing.

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The ruminant hospital provides state-of-the-art standard for teaching (see Major Deficiency 1), including training in emergency cases. Additionally, a 24/7 on-call service for ruminants is in place.

1.2.2. Comments

The equine hospital facilities, the number and expertise of staff and the caseload are now at an acceptable level to comply with the ESEVT Standards. The VEE has a strategy in place for further improvements.

A full upgrading of the equine VTH is planned as part of the real estate and development master plan (SDIA).

1.2.3. Suggestions

None.

1.2.4. Decision

The Major Deficiency “Non-compliance with Substandard 4.4 because of the absence of a 24/7 service for equine species at the VTH, an inadequate on-call service for ruminants and the absence of state-of-the-art standards in the ruminant and equine teaching clinics” (Substandard 4.4) has been fully corrected.

1.3. Major Deficiency 3: Non-compliance with Substandard 4.6 because of inadequacy of isolation facilities for equine and ruminant species.

1.3.1. Findings

New isolation facilities for both ruminants and horses have been built and are taken into use. All relevant equipment and procedures are in place.

1.3.2. Comments

The new isolation facilities are of high standard, are adequately built and equipped for their purpose, and promote good husbandry, management, welfare, and biosecurity practices.

1.3.3. Suggestions

None.

1.3.4. Decision

The Major Deficiency “inadequacy of isolation facilities for equine and ruminant species” (Substandard 4.1) has been fully corrected.

2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies

2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: Partial compliance with Substandard 4.1 because of sub-optimal compliance of some of the physical facilities with relevant legislation concerning biosecurity and EU animal welfare and care standards.

2.1.1. Findings

Several new animal units were taken into use during 2021. Both old and new facilities now comply with biosecurity and biosafety regulations as well as animal welfare and care.

The real estate and development master plan is a medium- and long-term plan for further stepwise refurbishing of the VEE.

2.1.2. Comments

Minor Deficiency 1 has been corrected.

2.1.3. Suggestions

None.

2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: Partial compliance with Sub-standard 4.9 because of sub-optimal posting of biosecurity signs in some areas where students are trained.

2.2.1. Findings

A biosecurity/biosafety handbook is available on a Moodle platform. This platform also provides biosecurity courses for staff and students, and a special presentation on this subject is given to staff newcomers. An e-learning certification course for staff and students is available, and the course will be made mandatory from the academic year 2022/23.

New postings of instructions and pictograms are in place in all relevant facilities.

2.2.2. Comments

Minor Deficiency 2 has been corrected.

2.2.3. Suggestions

None.

2.3. Minor Deficiency 3: Partial compliance with Substandard 5.1 because there was a sub-optimal number and variety of cadavers for anatomy and necropsy.

2.3.1. Findings

A specialist in veterinary pathology has been recruited with responsibility for improving the access to a variety of carcasses and other materials for training of students in anatomy and necropsy. Several initiatives are taken to be able to collect dead animals and carcasses from animal owners, shelters, local practices, slaughterhouses etc. These initiatives have been hampered by the COVID-19 restrictions, but with the lifting of these, they can now be fully realised.

A new platform for anatomy teaching was almost finished at the time of the RV and ready to be taken into use.

2.3.2. Comments

An ongoing process is in place to correct Minor Deficiency 3.

2.3.3. Suggestions

None.

2.4. Minor Deficiency 4: Partial compliance with Substandard 8.5 was found because of sub-optimal use of a logbook system for recording of clinical skills.

2.4.1. Findings

The VEE, in collaboration with the other French VEEs, is still in the process of developing and refining a new software for recording clinical cases seen by students (Sirius project) and assessing the acquisition of Day One Competences /D1C/ (Compet_Vet_Eval). The process has experienced some delays, but the new software Sirius should be available and implemented in late 2022. Moreover, the digital logbook for recording of clinical skills (Compet_Vet_Eval) should be set up in 2023.

2.4.2. Comments

An ongoing process is in place to correct Minor Deficiency 4.

2.4.3. Suggestions

None.

3. ESEVT Indicators

3.1. Findings

Most Indicators are above minimal value except the number of companion animal necropsies. To cope with this challenge, new staff has been recruited and the VEE has developed a strategy to increase the caseload in companion animal necropsy (see also Minor Deficiency 3).

3.2. Comments

None.

3.3. Suggestions

None.

4. Conclusions

All Major Deficiencies have been fully corrected.

Two of the Minor Deficiencies have been corrected and there is an ongoing process to correct the remaining two.

Decision of ECOVE

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiencies identified after the full Visitation 09 – 13 March 2020 had been corrected.

The National Veterinary School of Toulouse (ENVT) is therefore classified as holding the status of: **ACCREDITATION**.