



RE-VISITATION REPORT

**To the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and
Veterinary Medicine of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania**

On 22 – 24 March 2022

By the Re-visitation Team:

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Contents of the Re-visitation Report

Introduction

1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies
2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies
3. ESEVT Indicators
4. Conclusions

Introduction

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM), Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Timisoara (Romania) (called the Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) in this Report) was assessed by the EAEVE Visitation Team in February 2020. As well as a number of areas that were commended, ECOVE identified several areas for improvement. Four of these areas were defined as a Major Deficiency:

ECOVE found non-compliance with

- Substandard 3.1.4. because students do not consistently participate in herd health visits to carry out herd health investigations culminating in an integrated farm report
- Substandard 4.1 because of inadequate biosecurity and biosafety
- Substandard 4.2 because of the surgery units of the small animals VTH being non-operational due to construction problems
- Substandard 4.9 because biosafety manuals are often not present both in laboratories and clinical facilities, and there is insufficient information on biosafety requirements

In addition, ECOVE identified six Minor Deficiencies:

- Partial compliance with Substandard 2.1 because of insufficient evidence of available funding to carry out essential maintenance work in the companion animal surgery complex within the VTH
- Partial compliance with Substandard 4.4 because the new surgery units for small animals at the VTH are not operational. This issue is also addressed at Substandard 4.2.
- Partial compliance with Substandard 4.6 because the hospitalisation in the isolation facilities is not performed according to adequate, standardised protocols
- Partial compliance with Substandard 4.7 because herd health management is not delivered under academic supervision at the farm level
- Partial compliance with Substandard 5.4 because of non-optimal case recording
- Partial compliance with Substandard 8.5 because the logbook does not sufficiently cover both the academic oversight of this practice as well as an indication where the different skills should be learned or acquired

1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies

1.1. Major Deficiency 1: Non-compliance with Substandard 3.1.4. because students do not consistently participate in herd health visits to carry out herd health investigations culminating in an integrated farm report

1.1.1. Findings

Currently, students are obliged to use a so-called 'farm-visit report file' during farm visits. Students supervised by teaching staff complete the document and at the end of each visit the collected data are discussed and analysed. This way students learn and understand the principles of monitoring livestock health and management, epidemiological surveillance programmes, herd health certification, animal production management and control of existing diseases. Students acquire also practical skills during these visits.

At the university farm students have unlimited access to cattle and sheep. Due to the occurrence of African swine fever, interested students only electively participate at the pig farms operated by Smithfield farms (part of animal production EPT). It is the intention for the future to build two shelters for 500 pigs each at the university farm (financed by Smithfield Farms).

1.1.2. Comments

The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the access of students to farms. The introduction of the farm-visit report file and the way students have to participate, has resulted in an integrated farm report.

1.1.3. Suggestions

None.

1.1.4. Decision

Major Deficiency 1 has been fully corrected.

1.2. Major Deficiency 2: Non-compliance with Substandard 4.1 because of inadequate biosecurity and biosafety

1.2.1. Findings

A Biosecurity Working Group (BWG) has analysed the existing infrastructure and working procedures regarding biosafety and biosecurity. Biological risk areas were identified at the level of each department. New biosecurity SOPs were set up for all relevant facilities, such as laboratories, clinics, veterinary teaching hospital, farms and food science units. In addition, the VEE invested in the implementation of e.g. sanitary filters at the teaching farm for cattle, eye washes at working places, biosecurity signs, different colours demarcation lines of distinct areas, availability of a biosafety manual (2022 edition) in each practical teaching unit, etc. Moreover, students are now wearing protective clothing, have the opportunity to sanitise, and cleaning protocols and appropriate disposal of infectious material have been introduced. Finally, a VEE Biosecurity Commission will be responsible for proper functionality and programme surveillance of the biosecurity system.

1.2.2. Comments

All necessary measures have been taken and are in place to gain adequate biosecurity and biosafety.

1.2.3. Suggestions

None.

1.2.4. Decision

Major Deficiency 2 has been fully corrected.

1.3. Major Deficiency 3: Non-compliance with Substandard 4.2 because of the surgery units of the small animals VTH being non-operational due to construction problems

1.3.1. Findings

With funding from the University all construction problems have been solved.

1.3.2. Comments

Currently, the small animal surgery units are fully operational in the renovated Small Animals Surgery section.

1.3.3. Suggestions

None.

1.3.4. Decision

Major Deficiency 3 has been fully corrected.

1.4. Major Deficiency 4: Non-compliance with Substandard 4.9 because biosafety manuals are often not present both in laboratories and clinical facilities, and there is insufficient information on biosafety requirements

1.4.1. Findings

The 2022 Biosecurity Manual is available at VEE facilities and at the University website (also in English).

1.4.2. Comments

The biosecurity/biosafety manual (incl. SOPs) is present in all relevant facilities and include security and safety instructions for VEE students and employees.

1.4.3. Suggestions

None.

1.4.4. Decision

Major Deficiency 4 has been fully corrected.

2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies

2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: Partial compliance with Substandard 2.1 because of insufficient evidence of available funding to carry out essential maintenance work in the companion animal surgery complex within the VTH

2.1.1. Findings

Funding has become available for restoration of the roof of surgery unit and for future essential maintenance work. Each year this budget is supplemented by the received income of the clinical disciplines.

2.1.2. Comments

The VEE has identified funds/budget allowing to carry out essential maintenance work.

2.1.3. Suggestions

None.

2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: Partial compliance with Substandard 4.4 because the new surgery units for small animals at the VTH are not operational. This issue is also addressed at Substandard 4.2.

2.2.1. Findings

The Small Animals Surgery units are now fully operational.

2.2.2. Comments

The VEE has adequately addressed the partial compliance issue.

2.2.3. Suggestions

None.

2.3. Minor Deficiency 3: Partial compliance with Substandard 4.6 because the hospitalisation in the isolation facilities is not performed according to adequate, standardised protocols

2.3.1. Findings

Standardised working protocols for the isolation facilities are part of the VEE Biosecurity Manual.

2.3.2. Comments

The VEE has adequately addressed and implemented the shortcomings of standardised protocols for hospitalisation in the isolation units.

2.3.3. Suggestions

None.

2.4. Minor Deficiency 4: Partial compliance with Substandard 4.7 because herd health management is not delivered under academic supervision at the farm level

2.4.1. Findings

The 'Analysis report of the visited farm' is discussed and analysed with the accompanying teacher at the farm.

2.4.2. Comments

The supervising teacher is part of academic staff.

2.4.3. Suggestions

None.

2.5. Minor Deficiency 5: Partial compliance with Substandard 5.4 because of non-optimal case recording

2.5.1. Findings

A case recording system (mainly electronic) has been implemented and is fully operational.

2.5.2. Comments

Further development and finetuning of the case recording system is part of an ongoing system. The VEE has adequately addressed this Minor Deficiency.

2.5.3. Suggestions

None.

2.6. Minor Deficiency 6: Partial compliance with Substandard 8.5 because the logbook does not sufficiently cover both the academic oversight of this practice as well as an indication where the different skills should be learned or acquired

2.6.1. Findings

After acquiring the various skills during internships and various activities, and on initiative of the student, the teaching staff has to confirm the student's competence for each skill by signing the logbook. During the practical exam the skills mentioned in the logbook are verified by academic staff and the student's progress is monitored. Completion of the logbook skills is conditional for promotion to a higher academic level.

2.6.2. Comments

There is appropriate academic oversight on student's acquirement of skills and competences over the various years.

2.6.3. Suggestions

None.

3. ESEVT Indicators

3.1. Findings

The Indicators are within the range except the ones concerning the number of academic staff, support staff and PhD students, which are below the minimal values.

3.2. Comments

The VEE is aware of it. Three new academic positions have been recently opened, additional PhD students have been recruited and five new academic positions will be opened in October 2022.

3.3. Suggestions

None.

4. Conclusions

All Major Deficiencies have been fully corrected.

Most Minor Deficiencies have been fully corrected and an ongoing process is in place to correct the remaining ones.

Decision of ECOVE

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiencies identified after the full Visitation on 24 – 28 February 2020 had been corrected.

The Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) of the Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Timisoara is therefore classified as holding the status of: **ACCREDITATION.**