

Name and location of the Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE): Veterinary Faculty in Lugo, Campus Terra, University of Santiago de Compostela; Avda. Profesor Carballo Calero s/n, 27002 Lugo, Spain.

Name and details of the current VEE's Head: Prof Gonzalo Fernández Rodríguez, DVM, PhD; Unit of Infectious Diseases, Department of Animal Pathology.

Date of the completion of the Interim Report (3.5 years after the (full) Visitation at the latest): 30 May 2022.

Date of the previous Visitation:

The date of the previous Full Visitation was 24-28 September 2018. After two postponements, a re-Visitation took place on 21-23 April 2021 with the result of full accreditation of the VEE.

Any major changes which may affect the compliance with the ESEVT Standards since the previous SER (e.g. new national regulations, new foreign language track, more admitted students, less funding, lower caseload):

There were no new national or regional regulations affecting the VEE, nor any new foreign language track implemented. Student's admission keeps stable around 110 maximum intakes from 2011 to date. From 2018 to date, the VEE did not reduce its funding and the caseload was not lower since, even during the pandemic restrictions, it slightly increased.

With regard to the limitations imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic situation, in the second semester of the 2020-21 academic year, which began on January 2021, to date the VEE was able to do all teaching on campus; in the 2021-22 academic year, which began in September 2021, all theoretical and practical activities were carried out normally, except for practicals in slaughterhouses and poultry farms, which are not yet allowed.

Progress in the correction of:

-) **Major Deficiencies (non-compliance with ESEVT Standards)**

-) **Minor Deficiencies (partial compliance with ESEVT Standards) and plans for the near future.**

After the re-Visitation, the Major Deficiency was fully corrected.

With regard to the Minor Deficiencies, most of them were fully corrected or in an ongoing process to correct them. Here we update the situation of the Minor Deficiencies detected:

- **Minor Deficiency 1:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 2.5, because of insufficient autonomy of the Establishment for departmental restructuring and staff recruitment.* This deficiency remains as it requires a change in national and regional regulations that is greater than the responsibility of the University or the VEE.
- **Minor Deficiency 2:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 3.5, because of insufficient training in functional sciences.* In the subject *Physiology* the VEE developed more theoretical lectures and practical sessions in the VTH laboratory working with routine samples from hospital patients. Moreover, the activities of the Clinical Skills Laboratory has expanded to 11 different stations: propaedeutic; electrocardiography; endotracheal intubation; surgical drains; bandaging; suture; placement of surgical plates in traumatology; artificial insemination in cow, mare and sow, rectal palpation in cattle and horse and swine birthing; ultrasound diagnostics; DICOM imaging processing; osteology review; and laparoscopic surgery simulation. Recently, new models for administering drugs and taking blood samples in cattle and horses have also been incorporated into the propaedeutic station.
- **Minor Deficiency 3:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 4.7 because of insufficient housing and examination facilities for horses and pigs and the new farm not yet being built and fully functional.* The VEE improved the housing, exploration and hospitalization facilities for horses in the VTH; the new dairy farm is completed and operational and the new swine experimental teaching farm is pendant of approval of the project to its construction.
- **Minor Deficiency 4:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 5.1, because of insufficient number of equine necropsies.* As demonstrated in the Indicators, after the signature of the new agreement with a company in charge of waste management of cadavers in Galicia, the number of equine

necropsies is now sufficient to guarantee hands on training of students in Pathology since this academic year the number of equine necropsies is around 17 (compare raw data of equine necropsies in 2018-19 and 2020-21).

- **Minor Deficiency 5:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 5.2, because of insufficient caseload of horses and pigs.* This deficiency was addressed by the VEE when correcting the Major deficiency so now the caseload of horses and pigs increased enough to guarantee hands on training of students.
- **Minor Deficiency 6:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 5.5, because of the structure of the clinical training not allowing the active participation of undergraduate students in the full investigation and follow-up of patients.* The VEE gradually introduced the active participation of undergraduate students in the full investigation and follow-up of patients during the hospital rotation, and the VTH extends its teaching periods by also including the summer months and extending its daily schedule.
- **Minor Deficiency 7:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 7.8 because of the unexplained accumulation of students in the 5th year.* This deficiency is solved since it was the result of a wrong and bizarre way of calculation of the students enrolled in the different years of the curriculum.
- **Minor Deficiency 8:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 8.9 because of sub-optimal assessment of Day One Competences.* The VEE has implemented modifications of the logbook system, evaluation by scoring system, and OSCE final evaluation of the students in every clinical service participating in the rotation.
- **Minor Deficiency 9:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 9.2 because of insufficient recruitment of junior staff and because of insufficient specialised academic staff in some key clinical disciplines.* 14 new junior positions were assigned, helping to close the “generation gap”; 13 with full time dedication: 4 in *Infectious and Parasitic diseases, Preventive medicine and Zoonosis*, 1 in *Pathology*, 1 in *Internal Medicine*, 1 in *Surgery*, 1 in *Animal Production*, 3 in *Food Hygiene and Inspection*, 1 in *Physiology* and 1 in *Toxicology*; plus 1 assistant professor, part time dedication, in *Animal Production*.
- **Minor Deficiency 10:** *Partial compliance with Substandard 10.4 because of the absence of residency programmes in most common clinical disciplines.* There are legal issues that hinder the recruitment of residency candidates since the European Veterinary Diplomates lack any academic or professional official validity in Spain. A proposal of supplementary training for the European residency programme for Specialization in Aquatic Animal Health is pendant of approval by the ECAAH, to start with a resident and 1 resident in Clinical Ethology (ECAWBM) is under training at the VTH.

Expected date of the next Visitation (which should be completed not later than 2 months before the date of the ECOVE meeting preceding the end of granted status):

The VEE proposes the second half of March 2025 to develop the full visitation, i.e. 17 to 21 March 2025 or 24-28 March 2025, to be chosen by the visiting team.

Annex: Updated Excel Table with ESEVT Indicators (focusing on the last three complete academic years).

By previous agreement with the Director of the ESEVT, Prof Pierre Lekeux, the VEE calculated the indicators of the academic years 2018-19 and 2020-21 and skipped the year affected by the pandemic lock down (2019-2020).

Indicator I7 falls below the minimal values since in the academic year 2020-21 practicals in slaughterhouses were not allowed yet, as a side effect of the pandemic. This was compensated with practicals on inspection of pig and cattle heads and skin at the laboratory of Food Hygiene.

Indicator I10 falls below the minimal values but is compensated with Indicator I13 that is above the minimal values, since most of the cattle and pig patients are seen extramural.

Indicator I12 falls below the minimal values but is compensated with Indicator I8 that is above the minimal values, since all the companion animal patients are seen intramural.

Indicator I19 falls below but very close to the minimal values since the agreement with the company in charge of the waste management of cadavers in Galicia started in the academic year 2019-20, and the number of equine necropsies in 2018-19 was still low (see comments in minor deficiency 4).