



**RE-VISITATION REPORT**

**To the VEE of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest  
(UASVMB)**

**On 27-29 November 2023**

**By the Re-visitiation Team:**

Peter HOLM, Copenhagen, Denmark: Chairperson

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## **Introduction**

The VEE of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest was evaluated by an ESEVT team in March 2022.

In June 2022, ECOVE concluded that:

- ) Four Minor Deficiencies had been identified, i.e.:
  - Partial compliance with Standard 3.1.6 because of suboptimal training in professional communication
  - Partial compliance with Standard 4.3 due to suboptimal biosecurity in ambulatory clinic vehicles, concession veterinary practice and protective clothing used on farms
  - Partial compliance with Standard 5.4 due to a suboptimal retrieval system of VTH clinical records to efficiently support the teaching, research, and service programmes of the VEE
  - Partial compliance with Standard 8.5 because of suboptimal assessment of the acquisition of some Day One Competences
  
- ) Seven Major Deficiencies had been identified, i.e.:
  - Non-compliance with Standard 3.1.3 because of an inadequate exposure of students to a variety of equine clinical cases (including surgery)
  - Non-compliance with Standard 3.1.4 because the majority of students do not receive enough mandatory exposure on herd health management to allow acquisition of Day One Competences
  - Non-compliance with Standard 4.1 because of inadequate biosecurity procedures (facilities and equipment) for necropsies of large animals (>100 Kg)
  - Non-compliance with Standard 4.1 because inadequate intensive care/hospitalization for equine cases
  - Non-compliance with Standard 4.4. because of absence of well-equipped surgical facilities for horses, which does not allow state-of-art teaching for this animal species
  - Non-compliance with Standard 4.6 because of absence of isolation facilities for food-producing animals and absence of evidence that the isolation unit for equine is present at the relevant campus
  - Non-compliance with Standard 5.3 due to insufficient active participation by students in the clinical workup of patients in a number of situations, not allowing the acquisition of Day One Competences.

In accordance with the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT) and the 2019 ESEVT SOP, as amended in September 2021, the status of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest is Pending Accreditation.

A Re-visitation (RV) was planned in November 2023 and the RV Self-Evaluation Report (RSER) was submitted to EAEVE and the team in due time. The RV was well prepared and organised and

in full agreement with the SOP. The RSER had to be amended after the onsite RV because of missing information.

The 2019 ESEVT SOP as amended in September 2021 is valid for this RV.

## **1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies**

**1.1. Major Deficiency 1:** Non-compliance with Standard 3.1.3 because of an inadequate exposure of students to a variety of equine clinical cases (including surgery)

### **1.1.1. Findings**

As suggested by the ECOVE on June 8, 2022, the VEE has engaged in a contractual collaboration with a major Romanian Equine Hospital, The Zetelospital, Zetea City, Harghita County, signed 17/1-2022. The agreement allows 5th-year students in groups of 25 (on average) from all language programmes (Romanian, English and French) to do a 3-day equine rotation including night duty at an up-to-date equine hospital equipped with ultrasound, x-ray, MRI, CT scan, diode laser, endo- and arthroscopic equipment etc. Students are accompanied by at least two clinical teachers from the VEE and participate actively in clinical examinations and treatments, including injections, blood sampling, bandaging, diagnostic imaging, and assistance with anaesthesia and surgeries. Students write case reports and enter relevant data into Digital on the patients under the supervision of their teachers. During the first 3 months of extra-mural teaching at the hospital, students participated in 307 equine cases (see Table 1 in RSER).

The 3-day equine rotation at Zetelospital is implemented as part of the new compulsory rotational programme implemented in the second semester of Year 5 comprising 6 disciplinary clinical rotational modules covering companion and large animals, including equines, i.e. a Surgery module, an Internal Medicine module, a Reproduction module, an Infectious diseases module, and a Radiology & Emergency module and a module in Food Hygiene / Veterinary Public Health module. Each module runs over 2-weeks with 3-4 days of theoretical clinical teaching, generally on Mondays - Tuesdays, followed by 3 days of practical intramural clinical work, generally Wednesdays-Fridays at the clinical facilities of the VEE (the companion animal VTH, the clinical departments, University farm and the mobile veterinary service) and as supervised extramural clinical work at various facilities belonging to contracted partners (see tables 2, 3 and 4 in the RSER).

The core clinical work with large animal patients including equines takes place during the weekly practical clinical activities within the disciplinary courses and modules of Year 4, second semester and of Year 5, both semesters, with the major part in Year 5 (see Table 3.1.1, SER2020 and Tables 1 and in Addendum to the RSER).

The clinical work is organized on Wednesdays to Fridays during the semesters. The VEE estimates that the practical equine clinical work per core student in Year 5 sums up to 72 hours / 11 days of equine clinical practice work (48 hours intra- and extramural rotations at/from the VEE campus, plus 24 hours work at the Zetea rotation; see Table 1 and 2 in the Addendum to the RSER). This estimation is compatible with the interview responses from Year 5 and 6 students, who - when asked about their exposure to equine patients - told that they would work with equine patients intra-

or extramurally for 1 or 2 days every week during the Year 5 large animal rotations, depending on the discipline.

The total equine caseload has dropped since 2020/21 from 1187 patients to 804 patients in 2022/23 due to “reductions in the sanitary veterinary concessionary circumscriptions (SVCC) of VEE” (see Addendum of RSER, RSER Tables 2 and 3 and ESEVT indicator, chapter 3.1 in RSER).

The caseload of equine patients at the equine facilities at the VEE’s Bucharest campus has risen from 7 patients in 2022 to 34 cases in the 11 first month of 2023. Most of these have been ophthalmological cases but also included a few colic cases.

The VEE operates a horse trailer, which is used for bringing in horse patients to the Equine surgical facilities if the client does not have this possibility themselves.

### **1.1.2. Comment**

The inclusion of the 3-day equine rotation at Zetelospital has significantly enhanced the variety of supervised extra-mural equine patients (see Table 1 in RSER), and number-wise it has compensated for the substantial loss of extra-mural patients seen as part of the reduction in SVCC contracts.

As the total number of students graduating in 2022/23 was 240, the calculated number of intra-mural + extra murals equine patients seen per graduating student in 2022/23 was 3.35. Hence, the low number of intra-mural equine patients is adequately compensated by extra-mural patients seen under the supervision of teaching staff.

With the completed refurbishment of the Equine Surgical facilities including new examination facilities, 2 post-surgery/intensive care boxes/stalls, one equine isolation box, plus the existing 4 equine hospital boxes, the VEE has established on-campus infrastructure that allows for an increase of intra-mural caseload of equine patients. A strategy for increasing the number of intramural equine patients was delivered with the Addendum to the RSER.

### **1.1.3. Suggestions**

The VEE is encouraged to carry out its plan for increasing the equine caseload at its intramural equine facilities as mentioned in the Addendum to the RSER.

### **1.1.4. Decision**

The deficiency has been corrected.

**1.2. Major Deficiency 2:** Non-compliance with Standard 3.1.4 because the majority of students do not receive enough mandatory exposure to herd health management to allow acquisition of Day One Competences.

### **1.2.1. Findings**

Since the start of the academic year 2022-2023, all students have been taught and engaged in making Herd Health reports based on visits to ruminant, swine and poultry production farms, where they under supervision collect herd health data and interview the farmer and/or farm veterinarian. Specific questionnaires have been produced to aid the students’ collection of relevant herd health data. Based on collected data, students produce a Herd Health Report with suggestions for improving health at the farm.

Students are assessed by the teaching staff in two steps: Firstly, the collection of herd health data,

and secondly the Herd Health report. As part of the teaching and feedback on biosecurity measures, students access and enter their data into the online platform <https://biocheckgent.com/en>.

The VEE collaborates with three poultry farms, six swine farms and seven ruminant farms. One of the cattle farms, the Koplax Dairy Farm, is a modern industrial farm with 1050 dairy cows. It is according to the VEE and chief farm veterinarian among the top 5 dairy farms with the highest average milk yield per cow in Romania.

Outbreaks of Avian Influenza and African Swine Fever in Romania have hindered students and staff from entering poultry and swine farms. To compensate, the VEE has organized workshops with farm veterinarians or owners, where the students asked questions and received detailed information about management and biosecurity activities applied in these herds.

### **1.2.2. Comments**

The new initiatives regarding teaching Herd Health Management ensure that all students may obtain the Day One Competences within this discipline.

### **1.2.3. Suggestions**

None.

### **1.2.4. Decision**

The deficiency has been corrected.

**1.3. Major Deficiency 3:** Non-compliance with Standard 4.1 because of inadequate biosecurity procedures (facilities and equipment) for necropsies of large animals (>100 Kg)

### **1.3.1. Findings**

The new necropsy facilities in Building 8, including a room for changing cloth, a large necropsy room equipped for handling large animals (>100 kg), cooler and freezer facilities for storage of cadavers and separate entrances for cadavers and students/staff, have been completed and are in use. The facilities are constructed and equipped so proper biosecurity procedures can be applied, including crossing clean and dirty entrance pathways.

Biosecurity procedures are in place and published in the VEE biosecurity manual, which is available online. All students are instructed in biosecurity before the start of their practical exercises in the necropsy room. Students and staff are supplied with protective clothing before entry to the necropsy room. Students were not supplied with cut-resistant gloves.

In interviewing students participating in a necropsy session, they were able to explain the biosecurity procedures, including what to do in case of an accident, e.g. knife cut in hand/finger.

### **1.3.2. Comments**

The new necropsy facilities allow adequate biosecurity for students, staff and environment, and for all categories of animals including those > 100 kg. The biosecurity procedures are published in the VEE biosecurity manual, taught to students and available online for all staff and students.

### **1.3.3. Suggestions**

None.

**1.3.4. Decision**

The deficiency has been corrected.

**1.4. Major Deficiency 4:** Non-compliance with Standard 4.1 because inadequate intensive care/hospitalization for equine cases

**1.4.1. Findings**

The equine facilities have been enhanced to include two intensive care stalls next to the equine surgical theatre. The stalls are equipped for intensive care of equine patients.

Apart from the new intensive care stalls, the equine hospital has 4 regular stalls for equine patients.

**1.4.2. Comments**

The new intensive care stalls allow adequate intensive care and surveillance of equine patients, e.g. in association with post-surgical monitoring and treatment.

**1.4.3. Suggestions**

None.

**1.4.4. Decision**

The deficiency has been corrected.

**1.5. Major Deficiency 5:** Non-compliance with Standard 4.4. because of absence of well-equipped surgical facilities for horses, which does not allow state-of-the-art teaching for this animal species

**1.5.1. Findings**

In the courtyard of the equine clinic, a new restraint box for equine patients has been installed to optimize the examination of horses with ophthalmological, dental, and hoof problems. Furthermore, the equine facilities in Building 14, room 26 have been refurbished to achieve a functional and unified circuit for surgeries, including post-surgery intensive care.

In the surgical room, the operating table width has been modified, and the VEE has purchased an electrosurgical unit.

In the anaesthesia/recovery room next to the surgery, two video cameras have been installed allowing constant surveillance of patients during premedication and recovery. Furthermore, the doors into the recovery room have been fitted with a viewing window.

The mechanical system for lifting and transferring anaesthetized horses between the rooms has been refurbished.

Within the last 11 months (01/01/23 - 28/11/23), 20 equine patients representing 34 different cases have been examined and treated at the Equine facilities. Most patients have been treated for ophthalmological disorders, but the caseload also includes patients with colic, dental problems, melanomas and lamenesses.

**1.5.2. Comments**

With the refurbishing of the equine surgery and the establishment of the two new intensive care stalls (see Chapter 1.4), the VEE has achieved a functional, modern and unified surgical unit allowing “state-of-the-art teaching”.

**1.5.3. Suggestions**

None.

**1.5.4. Decision**

The deficiency has been corrected.

**1.6. Major Deficiency 6:** Non-compliance with Standard 4.6 because of absence of isolation facilities for food-producing animals and absence of evidence that the isolation unit for equine is present at the relevant campus

**1.6.1. Findings**

A (temporal) isolation unit consisting of two separate stalls with space for storage of feed, tools, utensils, .., has been established at the VEE teaching farm and mobile clinic facilities.

New clinical facilities with a large isolation facility are under construction next to the VEE teaching farm. This includes separate stables for large and small ruminants, pigs and poultry/rabbits and associated consultation rooms and large animal surgery. According to the VEE, the facilities will be ready for use within December 2024.

At the VEE Bucharest campus, an isolation unit for equines comprising a large isolated stable has been established in the UCEM build. The facility is entered from the outside.

The biosecurity procedures regarding the isolation facilities both at the Teaching Farm and at the Equine facilities at the Bucharest campus are published as part of the VEE Biosecurity Manual Version 4, and students are instructed in these procedures in conjunction with the clinical teaching at the respective locations.

**1.6.2. Comments**

The established isolation facilities, the two (temporal) isolation stalls next to the VEE teaching farm and the large isolated equine stable at the Bucharest campus, are simple but functional and adequate, with relevant signposting.

Procedural instructions for students (and staff) are also available in the biosecurity manual.

**1.6.3. Suggestions**

None.

**1.6.4. Decision**

The deficiency has been corrected.

**1.7. Major Deficiency 7:** Non-compliance with Standard 5.3 due to insufficient active participation by students in the clinical workup of patients in several situations, not allowing the acquisition of Day One Competences

**1.7.1. Findings**

During the clinical rotations, students are working in small groups around the patients. There is 1 teacher per  $\leq 12$  students in Year 5 and 1 teacher per 5-6 students in Year 6.

The VEE has implemented a logbook system comprising a clinical logbook, which covers all species and addresses Day 1 skills (see Chapter 2.4), a case portfolio and a practical training notebook, which are managed by the student and signed by the internal and external supervisor. The system includes both intramural and extramural clinical activities.

Students register their progressive participation in clinical procedures by ticking off “have seen”, “have assisted in” and “have performed” the specific skills mentioned in the new logbooks. The teachers evaluate student’s entries in the logbook and sign them. This, in combination with students’ case reports, training notebook and their registrations in the electronic medical record system, Digitail, forms the basis for the assessment of students’ practical clinical abilities.

**1.7.2. Comments**

In the RSER, Chapter 10, the VEE describes that the assessment of the clinical skills is based on the student’s recordings of his/her clinical cases and practical experiences, reflection on each case or experience, application of theoretical knowledge to real situations and the ability to demonstrate progressive development of skills throughout the training period.

During interviews with year 4, 5 and 6 students from all language programmes, the assessment procedures described in the RSER and by the VEE during revisitation have been confirmed. Furthermore, the same group of students expressed their satisfaction with the new logbook system, which allows them to follow their progress and ensures that they have obtained the necessary skills at an adequate level.

The VEE plans to use the existing logbook format until the EAEVE provides a guideline for the establishment of an optimal e-logbook.

**1.7.3. Suggestions**

None.

**1.7.4. Decision**

The deficiency has been corrected.



## **2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies**

**2.1. Minor Deficiency 1:** Partial compliance with Standard 3.1.6 because of suboptimal training in professional communication

### **2.1.1. Findings**

The VEE has from the academic year 2022-23 added a compulsory course in *Communication Techniques* (1 ECTS) to the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the first year of all veterinary programmes. The course prepares the students for the specific communication skills taught within the clinical disciplines and is evaluated during the semestrial practical final examinations or final exams for each clinical discipline.

According to the VEE, these examinations aim to evaluate students' competence in effectively interacting with clients and colleagues in a professional veterinary context, including oral communication with clients and written communication, e.g. their ability to conduct client interviews, convey medical information clearly, and address client concerns.,

The optional courses in communication, i.e. Communication and Communication Protocols with Patient Owners in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, and Professional Communication in the 6<sup>th</sup> year, 1<sup>st</sup> semester are still available for students.

### **2.1.2. Comments**

With the implementation of a short compulsory course in Communication Techniques, training of all students in professional communication has been assured and the VEE is now compliant with this Standard.

### **2.1.3. Suggestions**

None.

**2.2. Minor Deficiency 2:** Partial compliance with Standard 4.3 due to suboptimal biosecurity in ambulatory clinic vehicles, concession veterinary practice and protective clothing used on farms

### **2.2.1. Findings**

The biosecurity issues reported for veterinary ambulatory clinic vehicles (i.e. the inadequate amount of unlabelled disinfectant solution and unprotected, dirty vehicle seats) and the concessioned veterinary clinic (i.e. inadequate cleanliness) have been partly resolved. Protocols for cleaning and disinfection of these facilities are in place, and appropriate protective clothing, including waterproof overalls, footwear disposable protective covers were available in the clinic vehicle and at the VEE teaching farm and used by students. This was confirmed during interviews with year 5 and 6 students. Furthermore, the simple clinic facilities were clean.

However, in one of the ambulatory clinic vehicles, a pair of dirty boots belonging to one of the contracted veterinarians was found. The boots had not been cleaned after use as the biosecurity manual prescribes.

### **2.2.2. Comments**

The work on enhancing the biosecurity at the concessioned veterinary clinical facilities including the clinic vehicles is still in process.

**2.2.3. Suggestions**

None.

**2.3. Minor Deficiency 3:** Partial compliance with Standard 5.4 due to a suboptimal retrieval system of VTH clinical records to efficiently support the teaching, research, and service programmes of the VEE

**2.3.1. Findings**

The Digitail medical recording platform of the VEE, the Digitail system has been updated to encompass large animal cases.

Furthermore, new standard procedures for entering data into the Digitail have been implemented, so that searches can be carried out according to the species, location, teachers etc.

**2.3.2. Comments**

The extra-mural cases seen by students (under the supervision of the VEE teacher) are entered into the Digitail by students under the supervision of the teacher. The VEE is now compliant with the Standard.

**2.3.3. Suggestions**

None.

**2.4. Minor Deficiency 4:** Partial compliance with Standard 8.5 because of suboptimal assessment of the acquisition of some Day One Competences

**2.4.1. Findings**

The VEE has implemented a logbook system comprising a clinical logbook addressing Day 1 Competences, a case portfolio and a practical training notebook, which are managed by the student and signed by the internal and/or external supervisor. The system includes both intramural and extramural clinical activities.

The logbook system complements the clinical recordings done by students in the Digitail (companion animals) and in the large animal electronic registration system, and logbook/case portfolio/practical training notebook.

The logbooks, case portfolios, training notebooks and the registrations in the electronic medical record system are assessed by the supervising teachers according to established criteria in the course syllabi.

**2.4.2. Comments**

The assessment of the acquisition of DIC has been significantly improved.

The VEE is now compliant with the Standard.

**2.4.3. Suggestions**

None.

### 3. ESEVT Indicators

ESEVT Indicators

Name of the Establishment: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania					
Date of the form filling:		22/09/23			
Calculated Indicators from raw data		Establishment	Median	Minimal	Balance <sup>3</sup>
		values	values <sup>1</sup>	values <sup>2</sup>	
I1	n° of FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate st	0,122	0,15	0,13	-0,004
I2	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduatin	0,849	0,84	0,63	0,219
I3	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduatin	0,595	0,88	0,54	0,055
I4	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	1397,467	953,50	700,59	696,877
I5	n° of hours of clinical training	1128,300	941,58	704,80	423,500
I6	n° of hours of FSQ & VPH training	244,440	293,50	191,80	52,640
I7	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	79,440	75,00	31,80	47,640
I8	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating an	98,052	62,31	43,58	54,472
I9	n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating an	10,547	2,49	0,89	9,657
I10	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	3,894	4,16	1,53	2,364
I11	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally / n° of students graduatin	1,334	3,11	1,16	0,174
I12	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating a	4,283	5,06	0,43	3,853
I13	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally / n° of students gr	11,793	16,26	8,85	2,943
I14	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	1,199	1,80	0,62	0,579
I15	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	0,608	1,29	0,54	0,068
I16	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annual	0,078	0,11	0,04	0,033
I17	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	2,210	2,11	1,40	0,810
I18	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,914	1,36	0,90	0,014
I19	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,115	0,18	0,10	0,015
I20	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating an	1,452	2,65	0,88	0,572
I21*	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of studen	0,349	0,27	0,06	0,289
I22*	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually	0,060	0,15	0,07	-0,010
1	Median values defined by data from Establishments with Accreditation/Approval status in May 2019				
2	Recommended minimal values calculated as the 20th percentile of data from Establishments with Accreditation/Approval status in May 20				
3	A negative balance indicates that the Indicator is below the recommended minimal value				
*	Indicators used only for statistical purpose				

#### 3.1. Findings

All Indicators are above the minimal value, except I1 and I22 which are slightly below the minimal value.

#### 3.2. Comments

Currently, the Indicators are within the recommended ranges.

However, the significant increase in the number of admitted students could have a negative impact on several Indicators in the future, if it is not accompanied by a corresponding increase in teaching staff and patient caseload.

#### 3.3. Suggestions

None.

### 4. Conclusions

The Major Deficiencies have been corrected.

Most Minor Deficiencies have been corrected and an ongoing process is in place for the remaining one.

## **Decision of ECOVE**

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiencies identified after the Full Visitation on 7-11 March 2022 had been corrected.

The Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest (UASVMB) is therefore classified as holding the status of: **ACCREDITATION.**