

Report on the revisit to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Parma

In January 2011, the EAEVE Team visited the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Parma, and in April 2011 the Faculty was conditionally approved by the ECOVE Board with one category 1 deficiency due to “Lack of established long-term clinical teaching activity and related lack of case load as result of the very recent outsourcing of teaching activity and the very recent installation of emergency service, hospitalisation service and ambulatory clinic.”

As requested by the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Parma,, a revisitation of the FVM took place to evaluate the progress achieved in order to get the final approval of the ECOVE. The visit took place in March 2012, being accomplished by Prof. Maria Peleteiro (chairman of the visit in January 2011) and Dr. Tjeerd Jorna, a full member ECOVE.

The request of the visitation was accompanied by a microreport on the progress achieved since January 2011 in addressing the problems identified by the Visitation Team.

The Team visited the following facilities with the perspective of identifying the present conditions and the student’s involvement.

1 - 24/7 Emergency Service and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for companion animals and Small Animal Hospitalization

The Emergency Service and ICU and the Hospitalization facilities that were visited in January 2011 are now fully operating. The facilities were in good condition, with the necessary requirements to assure proper handling of animals in intensive care.

Two duty shifts are organized. A day shift from 8,00 am to 8,00pm and the night shift , from 8,00 pm to 8,00 am.

During the day shift, two clinicians are permanently present, one for Emergency Admittance and one for Intensive Care Unit, accompanied by four TIROCÍNIOstudents.

During the night shift and and week-ends, one clinician is permanently present with two TIROCÍNIO students.

Apart from these, there are 11 permanent faculty staff from Internal Medicine; Surgery, Obstetrics, Animal Reproduction and Diagnostic Imaging that are on call in case they are needed in the Hospital during an emergency. Additionally there are 10 contract professors, of which two are exclusively for surgical emergencies.

The case load of the 24/7 Emergency Service has significantly increased since 2010 (Table 1).

Table 1 – Case Load of the 24/7 Emergency Service

	Jan-Dec 2010	Jan-Oct 2011
Dogs	7	125
Cats	2	48
Horses	0	2

The Team had the opportunity to see TIROCÍNIOstudents working hands-on with the hospitalized animals accompanied by a member of staff. The appropriate information regarding the clinical cases was available in each cage, and a good and simple filled by hand record of all cases is being kept since January 2011, additionally to the computer based information filled in the admittance room.

The Faculty made a strong effort publicizing the existence of the Emergency 24/7 Service in the city of Parma and elsewhere in the Region, with a telephone number everyone can call to request information and directions and also to be admitted into the gates of the Faculty, accompanied by members of the security services.

2-Small Animal Hospitalization Service

This service operates in the next room to the Intensive Care Unit. The TIROCÍNIOstudents involved in the 24/7 Emergency Service also take care and accompany the hospitalized animals.

For the regular consultations there are also TIROCÍNIOstudents, two per each consultation room, and they were seen performing hands-on work with the patients.

The case load of consultation and of hospitalization has significantly increased since 2010 (Table 2).

Table 2 – Case Load of the Consultations and Hospitalization

	Consultations		Hospitalization	
	Jan-Dec 2010	Jan-Oct 2011	Jan-Dec 2010	Jan-Oct 2011
Dogs	1977	5071	68	176
Cats	599	1178	4	261

3-Mobile Clinic

The Mobile Clinic, that was very recently created in January 2011, is fully operating, two times a week. The number of kilometers registered were 5 000. The mobile clinic goes regularly to 22 swine farms and 8 cattle farms. Two to four students may go in each visit.

Students also go to farms with contract professors (10 contract professors for bovine clinics and two for equine). These transport small groups of two students in their own vehicles.

The activities in the farms can be, in cattle farms:

- general physical examination
- blood sampling
- milk sampling
- rectal examination and faecal collection
- hoof examination and treatment

With the Bovine Obstetrics teachers students perform in the farms gynaecological and ultrasound examination. It is estimated (and confirmed by the students) that each TIROCÍNIO student does a mean of 50 rectal palpations.

In swine farms:

- single animal and herd examinations
- castrations
- blood and faecal sampling
- intramuscular injections
- vaccinations

The arrangement that the FMP has arranged to receive per week five to ten bovine per week, with no costs for the Faculty, that are meant for slaughter, acquired by the Municipal Slaughterhouse of Parma in the Bolzano Market and that go through the faculty prior to slaughter, to be used for teaching purposes, seems to be still working very well. The system makes it possible for all clinical related disciplines to have fresh teaching material available every week (rectal palpations, blood and fecal collection, etc) and allows TIROCÍNIO students to be involved in hands-on practice in multiple clinical interventions, including foot care management and therapy.

In January 2011, the Visiting Team reported the recent acquisition of fresh teaching capacity with 55 contract professors to cover the requirements of practical training.

The Revisit Team has remarked that the number of contract professors has decreased to 20: ten in the small animal's teaching hospital and 10 for large animals (eight in bovine and 2 in horse clinics). Although this could be regarded as a draw back in the teaching capability, we believe that this is a much more realistic situation and that it is more feasible to establish a good and reliable relation with a smaller number of professionals. The contact we had with the ones presently working at the Faculty showed that they are motivated, filling in logbooks with the daily cases followed that are afterwards sent to the Dean, and that the students feel the benefit of their involvement.

The number of cases attended in the Mobile Clinic, including the visits made with the contract professionals, is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Case Load of the Mobile Clinic and contract professionals

	Jan-Dec 2010	Jan-Oct 2011
Bovine	960	9617
Equine	84	1033
Swine	258	4200

The team visited a real isolated building surrounded by a 2 meters high railing. The building was in the near of the necropsy room area of the campus.

The suspicious animals came in by a separate animal entrance and the clinician and the students by the front door. They follow a strict bio security protocol that was set in the personnel entrance room. All activities in the isolation unit are carried out following specific standard operating procedures. At the moment of the team-visit there were 4 ruminants in the unit and two students and the clinician did take care of them. The students carry out clinical examination and take samples. At that moment they had taken blood samples.

The case load of the recovered animals was:

Species	Jan.1 st ,2011 – March 15 th ,2012
EQUINE	2 - during 21 days
BOVINE	11 - during 561 days
SWINE	10 - during 430 days

Students showed the team their booklet where their duties are registered and confirmed by the teachers (Libretto).

5 -Teaching Equine surgery and medicine.

The teaching in equine surgery and medicine takes place in three different facilities:

-case load of horses admitted to the VTH.

	Clinical cases		Surgical cases	
	Jan.2011-March 2012	2010	Jan.2011-March 2012	2010
Equine	289	135	205	40

The students perform hands-on training and could show the records of the cases they had been involved with. The 5th year students had a list of cases that was available, but the students of the new curriculum-3rd year- showed the team a record booklet with obligatory cases to be followed (Libretto for ORIENTAMENTO).

The planned training of equine surgery and medicine includes: arthroscopy, orthopedics, diagnostics and surgery, castrations, soft tissue surgery and equine sport medicine.

In the mobile clinic students are visiting with a contract professor several equine clinics [n=9] and the cases seen from January to October 2011 were 1033 compared with in the past 84 in the total of 2010 [see mobile clinic].

-In order to increase the case load and hands-on experience the Faculty has stipulated a contract with the nearby slaughterhouse to carry out practical training activity on horses destined for slaughter and that are temporarily housed in the stalls there.

Due to concerns about the safety of students and staff only a limited number of students were involved in this during the professional training (Tirocínio). The horses came from Eastern Europe and were not well domesticated. Only 13 horses have been submitted to clinical examination and blood sampling. The team has advised to finish this system for case load increase for safety reasons. The program of rotation was also not advisable to be fulfilled. During the contact with the students the team got applause for this decision.

-Activities realized in agreement with Clinics.

The Faculty has also reached an agreement with a large, private clinic for equine medicine and surgery located approximately 10 km from Parma: Equitecnica E.C.S.N.C. with head clinician Dr.Sergio Orsi. The students of TIROCÍNIO were participating in the clinic's activities during their rotation system for one week. The students came for daily activities with no fixed timetable (from nine until the last client has gone and the last treatment performed) and also for night duty if there was any emergency (the students are reachable by telephone and come to the clinic using their own cars). It was evident that the students were quite involved in the clinic activities with clear hands-on training.

The head of the clinic complained about the financial crises that was responsible for the decrease in the number of horses in consultation and surgery, but he was still satisfied with the final result and to cooperate with the Faculty.

YEAR	No Activities	Rehabilitation	Surgery	Arthroscopies	Soft Tissue Surgery	Colics
2010	700	70	260	93	157	10
2011	571	50	194	57	130	7
Students	531	41	80	20	60	0

Also non surgical cases were included in non-traditional therapies in orthopaedics.

The students keep their own record (Libretto) and they could show the team their participation in many cases. The students told us to be very satisfied about the variety in cases they could see and, although not in the list, they told to have followed cases of colics.

6-Case load from the re-build necropsy facility

The number of necropsies carried out both on small and large animals for teaching purposes has generally increased. The 3rd year students during Path. Anatomy I and II and students in TIROCÍNIO and students with electives have to carry out necropsies, record gross pathology and collaborate with the faculty staff to formulate a diagnosis and complete the autopsy report.

The case load in the Micro-report showed that there was a significant increase in necropsies of all main animal species. During the meeting with the students they could confirm that there was a great change in the case load and they showed very happy with that.

Comments

It is the Team' opinion that after a little less than one year (from January to October 2011), the numbers of cases registered in the clinical services, such as Teaching Hospital, Emergency Services, Isolation Unit and Mobile Clinic, have reached values that allow us to state that the facilities that were present in January 2011, are adjusted to the needs of a favorable teaching environment, making it possible for the Faculty to provide a good education in clinical subjects with many opportunities for hands-on training.

It is also our wish to emphasize that this information was confirmed by the students that were informally questioned throughout the visit and in the meeting with the students that took place in the afternoon of the first day of the visit.

We asked to see the register (Libretto) where students keep of the records of their activity, and the consultation of various Librettos confirmed the fact that they all have the opportunity to access hands-on training in a good variety of cases and species.

The Libretto for the ORIENTAMENTO of the New Curriculum has been modified in a way that the tasks to be performed are already registered, the students and teachers having to confirm that they have been accomplished, with the indication of having seen, participated or actually performed.

Suggestions

Following this visit, the present Team wishes to report to ECOVE that the category 1 deficiency of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Parma has been repaired.

29-30 March, 2012

MARIA C. PELETEIRO

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ECOVE DECISION: NO MAJOR DEFICIENCIES FOUND.

STATUS OF FACULTY: FULLY APPROVED