

ECOVE Meeting in Vienna, 2-3 February 2010

Reviews and Decisions on the Evaluation Visitations

Evaluation Revisit to Liège, Belgium

The following suggestions had been made at the Full Evaluation Visitation:

A) Category I Deficiencies

- Inadequate necropsy room
- Lack of adequate isolation facilities (small animals) and isolation facilities in general (large animals)

B) Other Serious Suggestions

- Lack of steering group for the establishments
- Lack of adequate teaching and training in milk, milk products and fish
- Lack of common adequate patient recording system
- Lack of compliance with EU-legislation in housing animals on experimental farm

C) Other Suggestions

- The development of integrated e-learning projects between the four establishments
- Concerning animal production the curriculum should allow for more "hands-on exposure"
- Clinical sciences are well and adequately covered though the FVM might consider to still improve the situation by establishing a 24hr on duty ambulatory service
- The design and construction of the facilities and the operating practice of some parts of the sites give concern in terms of health, safety and biosecurity.
- The FVM is further advised to implement a Faculty-wide safety and biosecurity plan.
- Establishment of a functioning central and adequately equipped clinical laboratory.
- Work towards a central pharmacy serving all clinical units
- Increase the companion animal load
- Lack of access to rabbit production units and commercial fish production, poor access to poultry production
- High number of students entering the 2nd cycle.
- The ratios R1 and R2 indicate that the 2nd cycle teaching at the FVM is somewhat below the standard of other EAEVE-approved faculties- thus reduce the number of students pouring in.

The Revisit Team (Prof Marc Gogny and Prof Lars Moe) stated in their revisit report that all Category 1 Deficiencies and 2 of the Other Serious Deficiencies had been resolved and they highlighted the fact that many other improvements have been made since the primary visit in March 2009.

The mobile ambulatory vehicle is impressively well equipped and brand new. This will be an improvement to the teaching of the students and the service to the referring veterinarians. When it is expanded to 24 h service, it will be an even bigger improvement.

Special emphasis was drawn to the impressive Biosecurity Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that has been written and developed by the FVM in 2009 (1-146 pages). It seems to be already well implemented in the laboratories and the clinics. It is important that the maintenance of the Biosecurity SOP and the intentions behind it is closely followed up. To follow the intentions behind the Biosecurity SOP a new way of working and thinking in several areas over several years is needed.

It was recommended by the Revisit Team to put Liege back on to the list of Approved Faculties and ECOVE made an unanimous decision to follow the experts' recommendations.

It was stressed that Liege has done an excellent job in an incredibly short time and ought to act as example of how much of an incentive a „conditionally approved“-status can be. Particularly the biosecurity manual reflects the way faculties should react to a change in status they had not anticipated.