



RE-VISITATION REPORT

**To the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Copenhagen,
Copenhagen, Denmark**

On 20 – 21 September 2022

By the Re-visitiation Team:

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Contents of the Re-visitation Report

Introduction

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

Introduction

Originally the Full Visitation to the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences of the University of Copenhagen (called the Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) in this Report) was scheduled to take place in April 2020 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been postponed to September 2021. During this Full Visitation, some functions of the VEE were still recovering from the effects of COVID-19-restrictions.

Based on the Visitation Report, ECOVE decided on 14 December 2021 that the VEE is Conditionally Accredited because of one Major Deficiency (i.e. non-compliance with Substandard 1.3 because of the need to implement a common strategic plan at the VEE level in addition to the existing separate plans for the two departments) and several Minor Deficiencies (i.e. partial compliance with Substandards 2.1, 3.1, 4.4, 5.1, and 6.2).

The VEE asked for a Re-visitation in spring 2022, the Revisitation Self-Evaluation Report (RSER) was provided in July 2022 and the Re-visitation was done on 20-21 September 2022.

The Re-visitation was completed in agreement with the SOP 2019. The VEE has to be commended for the excellent organisation of it and for its collective commitment to correcting the deficiencies.

1. Correction of the Major Deficiency

1.1. Major Deficiency 1: Non-compliance with Substandard 1.3 because of the need to implement a strategic plan on the school level in addition to the existing plans for the two departments

1.1.1 Findings

Since December 2021 and as recommended by the Visitation Report, the VEE has developed a cross departmental Vet School strategic plan 2023-2026 (RSER Appendix 1), together with a SWOT analysis and an operational plan.

Key persons from both departments, VTH, board of the VEE and students were involved in the preparation of it. After internal and external stakeholders' input and after approval by the VEE and its 2 departments, the final draft will be endorsed by the Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Science (i.e. the legal authority) in early December 2022.

In the new Strategy plan, the Vision and Mission are unchanged to the previous one, showing a necessary continuity. The VEE's strategy takes into account the SWOT analysis, the University strategic plan and the departments' strategic plans.

The VEE common strategy includes an implementation plan, defines actions to be done, gives criteria for success and identifies responsible authorities for its implementation and monitoring. Cross departmental actions and dialogue are promoted in the new version of the strategic plan. The proposed actions are ambitious but realistic and in agreement with the strategy of the University and the current changes in society (e.g. implementation of the 3R, skills lab, wellbeing of students and staff, healthy physical workplaces, one health concept, sustainable development).

1.1.2. Comments

The VEE strategic plan is now in agreement with the SOP, has been developed by the staff with the contribution of internal and external stakeholders, adopted by the relevant authorities, posted on the VEE website and communicated to stakeholders.

1.1.3. Suggestions

None.

1.1.4. Decision

The Major Deficiency "Non-compliance with Substandard 1.3 because of the need to implement a strategic plan on the VEE level in addition to the existing plans for the two departments" has been fully corrected.

2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies

2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: Partial compliance with Substandard 2.1 because of the need to reallocate the budget within SUND to deliver sustainable funding for the VEE

2.1.1. Findings

The Faculty has made a permanent 1.5 million € increase to D-VCS budget to correct unbalanced funding and the D-VCS has a plan to balance the budget by 2024 at the latest.

2.1.2. Comments

The requested additional funding has been provided on a recurrent basis, which should allow a balanced budget of the D-VCS in the near future.

2.1.3. Suggestions

None.

2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: Partial compliance with Substandard 3.1.3 because of the low number of teaching hours in exotic animal medicine (physiology, handling, medicine, and clinical skills) within the veterinary curriculum

2.2.1. Findings

The VEE has agreed that the training in exotic animals is insufficient and has developed a transparent and realistic plan to enhance both theoretical and clinical training.

Additional theoretical and practical teaching activities will therefore be available in the near future and contacts with local practices and the local zoo have been done to increase the caseload in exotic animals.

2.2.2. Comments

A strategy is in place to enhance during the next academic year the theoretical, practical and clinical training in exotic animals.

2.2.3. Suggestions

None.

2.3. Minor Deficiency 3: Partial compliance with Substandard 3.1.3 because of the limited access for students in the core companion animal rotation to more advanced medical and surgical cases

2.3.1. Findings

The VEE reports in the R-SER that the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions had a negative impact on staff availability and clinical caseload. However, the consultations have now increased, and quantity and variety of cases are fulfilling the needs.

There is also a continuous aim to increase the number and variety of both medical and surgical patients in which the students are involved. It has been decided to increase the integration of Companion Animal track students and Core-students in the VTH, which will allow each individual student to see more clinical cases.

To enhance the clinical staff, one new teaching assistant professor position in emergency medicine has been opened.

2.3.2. Comments

A consistent strategy is in place to enhance the hands-on clinical training of undergraduate students.

2.3.3. Suggestions

None.

2.4. Minor Deficiency 4: Partial compliance with Substandard 4.4 because the high level of expertise that is provided in the equine and farm animal services at a 24/7 standard is not always provided at the same level of expertise in the small animal hospital. The VEE is partially compliant with Substandard 4.4 because the out-of-hour service of the companion animal hospital is not always functioning at the ‘standard of care’ level that would be expected from a modern university teaching hospital and senior clinicians are only available for advice on the phone and clients are occasionally redirected to a private animal clinic.

2.4.1. Findings

With the available resources, the VEE can have senior clinicians and specialists in small animal hospital only on telephone consultations during out-of-hour service. Therefore, Junior clinicians are on duty 24/7 and senior staff are physically present in normal working hours and available for teleconference during out-of-hour service. The senior clinicians on call have access to the electronic records system and imaging files from home and can advise and support the clinicians on site in their patient management decision making. Also the VEE has stated that the planned strengthening emergency and critical care day-time resources and education will also partially relief pressure in off hours 24/7 service outside of ordinary working hours.

2.4.2. Comments

Emergency services 24/7 are available in companion animal, with students and qualified junior staff available onsite and on-call senior staff who have access to all clinical records and are available online for advice (telemedicine).

2.4.3. Suggestions

None.

2.5. Minor Deficiency 5: Partial compliance with Substandard 5.1 because of the need to both increase the number/distribution of small animal surgical cases as well as providing an increased teaching for exotic animals

2.5.1. Findings

The clinical caseload is now back at pre-COVID-19 level and is increasing.

The decided amendments for exotic animals, companion animal caseload and small animal hospital emergency service should increase the number of surgical cases.

2.5.2. Comments

The training in exotic animals has been discussed in item 2.2.

The caseload in other species is in agreement with the requirements (see Indicators).

2.5.3. Suggestions

None.

2.6. Minor Deficiency 6: Partial compliance with Substandard 6.2 because of the need to provide a more focused IT support for the two veterinary departments

2.6.1. Findings.

The Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences has run a survey which also has identified dissatisfaction on the IT -services.

To solve the problem, the University has invested 675,000 € in IT services and a constructive dialogue/collaboration has been established between the IT unit and the academic and support staff of the VEE.

2.6.2. Comments

The problem has been acknowledged by all relevant persons and the decisions taken should improve the situation in the near future.

2.6.3. Suggestions

None.

3. ESEVT Indicators

3.1. Findings

All Indicators show a positive balance, except the number of companion animal necropsies and number of visits to poultry and farmed rabbits.

For companion animal necropsies, the VEE is replacing the necropsies of minks (which are currently not produced anymore in Denmark because of SARS-CoV-2 mutations) by necropsies of pets provided by both the VTH and private clinics.

For the visits to poultry farms, the VEE has made agreements with 4 commercial poultry farms for significantly increasing the number of visits. Rabbits are not commercially produced in Denmark, thus, there is no farms to visit.

3.2. Comments

There is an ongoing process in place to correct the 2 Indicators with a negative balance.

3.3. Suggestions

A movie showing rabbit production and farming could be presented to students.

4. Conclusions

The Major Deficiency has been fully corrected and an on-going process is undoubtedly in place to correct the Minors Deficiencies.

Decision of ECOVE

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiency identified after the Full Visitation on 13 – 17 September 2021 had been corrected.

The Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) of the University of Copenhagen is therefore classified as holding the status of: **ACCREDITATION**.