



Interim Report

Name and location of the Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE)

University of Padua - Department of Animal Medicine, Production and Health

Name and details of the current VEE's Head

Prof. Alessandro Zotti

Date of the completion of the Interim Report (3.5 years after the last full Visitation):

15th April 2024

Date of the previous Visitation

19th – 23rd October 2020

Any major changes which may affect the compliance with the ESEVT Standards since the previous SER

Two major changes, shared with other Italian Establishments, are going to influence the organisation of the Degree Course in Veterinary Medicine (DCVM) at Padua University.

- A new National regulation has set an increase of income students in the DVM programmes in Italy. As a consequence, the number of students yearly enrolled in the DCVM of the University of Padua, defined every year by a decree of the Ministry of the University (Last decree: DM n.75, 10.02.2023), has increased from 75 (AY 2020-21) to 100 (AY 2023-24).
- External events, such as Avian influenza and African swine fever epidemics currently ongoing in some Italian areas, may affect the availability of animals or carcasses for practical activities and the access of the students to farms.

Progress in the correction of:

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

No major deficiencies were reported during the last visitation.

-) Minor Deficiencies (partial compliance with ESEVT Standards)

During the full visitation conducted in October 2020, five minor deficiencies were reported for the Substandards 4.3, 4.6, 4.7, 7.3 and 8.8 (ESEVT SOP 2019). Three working groups (teaching animals; website; student assessment strategy) were created within the EAEVE Commission (renewed in 2022) of the DCVM and each group was asked to analyse the situation and prepare a plan for the correction of the associated deficiencies. The results were then discussed within the Commission and finally made operational.

- Substandard 4.3 (Facilities and equipment): the sub-optimal size of some buildings used by the VEE for teaching purposes identified during the last visitation has been partly amended over the three years since the EAEVE visitation, through the construction of a new 3-floors building (3,072 m², offices/laboratories), dedicated to veterinary-related staff and activities, and to the activation of a Skill and Simulation Lab in a newly arranged room (100 m²).
- Substandard 4.6 (Facilities and equipment): sub-optimal storage and recording of pharmaceutical products and sub-optimal first-aid boxes has been corrected through an update of the SOPs documents and the identification of a reference person for pharmaceutical product management. An overall reinforcement of SOPs application by means of internal and external audits is planned within the end of the year.
- Substandard 4.7 (Facilities and equipment): the sub-optimal monitoring of teaching animal usage has been tackled by the introduction of a web-based tool for tracking practical activities. A form including animal identification, procedures, handling time and animal/student ratio is currently online and must be filled by all academic staff involved in the use of teaching animals.
- Substandard 7.3 (Student admission, progression and welfare): the insufficient access to the SER and Visitation Report on the VEE website was corrected by moving the VEE web page to a different URL (<https://www.maps.unipd.it/en/teaching/veterinary-medicine>) that is now handled by the Department and more easily modifiable directly by the DCVM management body.
- Substandard 8.8 (Student assessment): the absence of a coordinated overall assessment strategy was tackled by the VEE starting from the analysis of how examination methods were described in the syllabi and the identification of the major criticisms. Consequently, the EAEVE Commission promoted the following actions: i) the development of guidelines for student assessment for Academic staff with examples of best practices; ii) the definition of a rubric for evaluation criteria used during oral examinations; iii) the organisation of two workshops on assessment methodology; iv) the development and dissemination of a questionnaire to the students after the examination. All actions are under constant monitoring to evaluate their efficacy and to suggest further steps.

Plans for the near future

- The budget for new buildings dedicated to enlarge the VTH (about 1,000 m²), an ample teaching room for lecture (300 m²), a room for practical activities involving animals (180 m²), and to double the necropsy room has been already allocated by the University Administrative Council and included in the 3-years building program 2023-2025.
- The refurbishment of the teaching facilities at the university animal farm is secured thanks to a specific University grant and included in the 3-years building program 2023-2025.
- In order to increase the number of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic patients seen at the VTH (the only Indicator under the minimal value) the hiring of two permanent staff purposely dedicated to this activity has been planned in the near future. The personnel will be hired thanks to specific budget linked to a project submitted to the University Council and approved.

Expected date of the next Visitation

May-June 2027 (before August 2027)

Annex: Updated Excel table with ESEVT Indicators