

**REPORT ON THE RE-VISIT TO THE FACULTY OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE, CACERES**

12-13 APRIL 2012

**by Dr. Prof. Maria Da Conceição Peleteiro
Dr. Prof. Luca Rossi**

Previous to the visit, the Dean (Prof. J. Tovar) had mailed a short report on improvements implemented since the EAEVE visit in April 2010 (Annex 1). Though no Agenda was proposed in advance, visitors (Prof. Maria Da Conceição Peleteiro and Prof. Luca Rossi) received efficient collaboration by the Dean and his team, resulting in the accurate visit of all expected premises and services, the visualization of relevant documents and the auditing of informed (senior and junior) staff and a random sample of students that we met while involved in clinical rotations.

On 22nd June 2010, ECOVE had deliberated the status of Non Approved Faculty, due to the identification of three Category 1 Deficiencies:

- ✓ Lack of isolation facilities for small animals;
- ✓ Lack of a 24 hour emergency service for small animals;
- ✓ Insufficient training in food production animals.

Compensation of the first two deficiencies was investigated during the first day of the re-visit, whereas training in food production animals was debated on the second day.

On April 12th, the Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (Prof. Rafael Barrera Chacon) attended us during the visit to the refurbished premises assigned to isolation and the 24 hour emergency service for small animals. While visiting, we met and interviewed members of the junior staff (Dr. Massimo Santella, Dr.a Martinez and Dr. Garcia) that were on duty in the after-hours, and received from them additional information and their opinion about the new initiatives. Moreover, we had a series of short talks with students that were scheduled (as we could check a *posteriori*) for clinical rotation in the fore mentioned emergency service.

On April 13th, we first met Prof. Joaquin Sanchez Peinado, responsible of the Ambulatory Clinic, who illustrated the new organization of this service and the official documents showing that three additional practitioners would have been hired by the University of Extremadura to improve clinical training of students in food production animals. Afterwards, Prof. Perez, responsible of the Teaching Farm at the Campus, attended us during a visit aimed to show revitalization of the facility with dairy cattle, goats, equines and poultry in addition to sheep which were already present in 2010. During a final

working lunch, we could thank the Dean for hospitality and collaboration, and inform him about the meetings.

Information which we deem most relevant for the purposes of this report is the following:

1. **A 24 hour 7 days per week emergency service for companion animals has been implemented at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.** It is run, on rotation, by 4 members of the junior (non-permanent) staff, under the responsibility of an on-call member of the senior staff;
2. Students join the fore mentioned service during their fifth year. A minimum of two compulsory rotations is requested. One-three students are involved per rotation;
3. The emergency service is publicized in the Homepage of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (<http://www.uexhcv.es/contacto-php>). A contact mobile phone number is accessible to the public (661616698);
4. Fees of the emergency service are kept high compared with local standards. As expected, this policy has favoured good relationship with the local practitioners and Veterinary Chamber;
5. In the first 18 months since implementation of the service (October 2010 – March 2012), the number of admitted cases was **63, namely 48 dogs, 14 cats and 1 other pets. The figure corresponds to approximately 0.35 cases/night;**
6. **Premises at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital,** which were previously used as warehouse, **have been refurbished and destined to isolation of infective and suspicious small animals.** The isolation facility has a separate access from the external perimeter of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and a dedicated access (with buffer room) from the inside. Canine and feline patients may be isolated separately. An adequate number of spacious steel cages is available in both rooms. Toilets for personnel are available;
7. On 22 February 2012, the University of Extremadura (the Rector, Prof. Secundo Piriz Duran) and the Government of Extremadura (the Chief Executive of the Health and Social Policies of the Junta de Extremadura, Dr. Francisco Javier Fernandez Perianes) have signed an agreement permitting to the Faculty to hire – in part-time regimen - three practitioners with acknowledged experience in farm animal medicine and surgery and to assign them to the exclusive needs of the Ambulatory Clinic service.

8. The fore mentioned part-time positions, financially supported by the Government of Extremadura, will be soon assigned following a public competition procedure.
9. **The new reinforced Ambulatory Clinic will be fully operating since October 2012.** Each working day, two students (of the fourth and fifth year) will be on duty with the responsible of the Ambulatory Clinic service or one of the "Associate Professors". Each student will be on duty for a minimum of 10 days. Additional participations will be allowed to students with a special interest in farm animal medicine and surgery.
10. The "Associate Professors" will be officially in charge to assess the students and certificate the accuracy of their log-books;
11. Additional farm animals are now raised at the Teaching Farm, for the benefit of hand-on training activities in the disciplines of Animal Production, Theriogenology and Medical Pathology. Overall, we could see 72 sheep, 15 goats, 4 dairy cattle, 5 horses, 2 donkeys and approximately 200 poultry.

In passing, we were glad to: i) be informed by the Dean that, in 2011, 3249 small animal patients were seen at the Veterinary Teaching hospital, and 89 small animals were necropsied. Accordingly, ratios R16 and R20, which were borderline during the EAEVE visit in 2010, are now up to standard; ii) meet an enthusiastic group of students and junior staff that, in the late afternoon of April 12th, were actively involved in the emergency service for equines, which was already operating when the Faculty was visited in 2010.

Based on evidence and the information collected during the visit, it is our opinion that the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Caceres has positively reacted to requests by the ECOVE and has compensated for the three Category 1 Deficiencies which determined the Non Approval status.

Yours faithfully

Caceres/Lisboa/Torino, 22 April 2012

Dr. Prof. Maria Conceicao Peleteiro

Dr. Prof. Luca Rossi

ECOVE DECISION: FULL APPROVAL