



## **RE-VISITATION REPORT**

To the Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) of the University of Lisbon, Portugal

**On 2 - 4 March 2026**

**By the Re-visitiation Team**

**Robert Huey**, Cookstown, Northern Ireland: Chairperson

**Hans Henrik Dietz**, Copenhagen, Denmark: ESEVT Coordinator

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### Introduction

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Lisbon, Portugal, was evaluated by EAEVE on 23 - 27 September 2024.

This Visitation Team found that there were notable/significant gaps in student facilities and biosecurity practices. Dissection and necropsy rooms provided insufficient space for students to change, and the separation of clean and contaminated areas was unclear, raising the risk of cross-contamination. Similar issues were evident in the Equine isolation unit (minor deficiency, standard 4.6). Additionally, some skills labs (handling cadavers' parts) lacked disinfection barriers and hand sanitation facilities, compromising hygiene and safety. These findings led to the identification of a Major Deficiency:

Major deficiency: "Non-compliance with Standard 4.9 because of insufficient posting and implementation of the biosecurity procedures in several facilities, e.g. dissection room, necropsy room and equine isolation unit".

Additionally, areas of concern (minor deficiencies) were identified:

1. "Partial compliance with Standard 4.6 due to the sub-optimal separation of clean and potentially infected routes in the isolation units.
2. "Partial compliance with Standard 3.1.4 due to sub-optimal core training in individual food production medicine.

The decision by ECOVE, which met on December 10th, 2024, was PENDING-ACCREDITATION status.

The Re-visitation Self Evaluation Report was provided to the Re-visitation Team on time and contained pertinent information, along with the Annexes relevant to the identified deficiencies. The Re-visitation was well prepared and well organised by the VEE.

Due to personal health matters, the RV was performed as a hybrid visitation with the Chairman participating virtually.

It was carried out in a cordial working atmosphere, in agreement with the ESEVT SOP 2023.

## 1. Correction of the Major Deficiency

### 1.1. Major Deficiency:

The VEE is not compliant with Standard 4.9 because of insufficient posting and implementation of the biosecurity procedures in several facilities, e.g. dissection room, necropsy room and equine isolation unit.

#### **1.1.1. Findings**

Following receipt of the decision of ECOVE, the VEE carried out a comprehensive review of the overall biosecurity of the VEE, drawing upon internal expertise and best practice examples from elsewhere. This involved an in-depth review of the VEE's Manual of General and Specific biosecurity procedures and Health and Safety measures, in order to produce a Biosecurity SOP. These have been communicated to students, staff and visitors through clear signage and QR Codes.

A capital programme of building and equipment, to the value of one million euros, has been undertaken with the objective of fully meeting the requirements of a VEE in the long term. This includes:

- (a) The construction of two new changing rooms for students and staff, one for the anatomy dissection room and another for equine and food-producing animals
- (b) Expansion and refurbishment of the pathology/necropsy changing room in order to ensure a clear separation of clean and potentially infected areas within the facility, a hygiene lock and posters outlining the sequence of procedures to be followed
- (c) Conversion of a former kennel into a large General Changing Room where students can leave their personal belongings, e.g. bags, laptops and move forward to the specific changing rooms with only the equipment necessary for each practical class.
- (d) Complete renovation and expansion of the Equine Biological Isolation and Containment Unit.
- (e) Building an exclusive access for the Biological Isolation and Containment Unit for Companion Animals, with separate clean and potentially infected routes. This access route is now totally separate from the access to the Equine Biological Isolation and Containment Unit.
- (f) Acquisition of new PPE, including lab coats, surgical gowns, coveralls, aprons and boots for exclusive use in high-risk areas, which have been fully equipped with apron washers and storage cabinets. Students no longer provide their own PPE or are they responsible for its laundry.
- (g) Increase in laundry capacity to provide the necessary throughput of clean gowns, scrubs and coveralls provided by the VEE.
- (h) Specific lockers have been provided in the cafeteria for lunch bags.
- (i) The teaching areas have been re-organised to separate dummies and training models from ex vivo animal organs/cadavers, with implementation of safety barriers.

Biosecurity procedures have been improved throughout, along with identical signage at the entrance to all high-risk areas with pictograms and/or QR Codes referring to the relevant part of the Biosecurity SOP.

Teaching of Biosecurity procedures has been strengthened to ensure a comprehensive understanding throughout the entire VEE community and effective implementation of protocols. Supervision and practical enforcement of good biosecurity practices have been improved, and a workplace Health and Hygiene Technician has been assigned to carry out daily monitoring and regular inspections.

#### **1.1.2. Analysis of the findings/Comments**

The changes made to structures, layout, procedures, training and supervision together ensure that there are now sufficient and adequate posting and implementation of the biosecurity procedures in several facilities, e.g. dissection room, necropsy room and equine isolation unit.

### **1.1.3. Suggestions**

None

### **1.1.4. Decision**

The Major Deficiency has been fully corrected.

## **2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies**

### **2.1. Minor Deficiency 1:**

The VEE is partially compliant with Substandard 3.1.4 because of suboptimal core training in food-producing animal individual medicine.

#### **2.1.1. Findings**

A new curriculum was implemented in the academic year (2025 - 2026), which significantly increases the core training in individual food-producing animal medicine (tripling the number of hours per student). This has been achieved by integrating Farm Animal Clinics with Herd Health, achieving 125 hours of clinical and herd health training during the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the curriculum. During this training, students participate in ambulatory clinics, herd health visits to farms and seminars on farm animal health and welfare.

The ambulatory clinics involve small groups of 5-6 students visiting dairy and beef cattle, small ruminant and swine farms. Herd Health visits involve larger groups of 15-18 students and visits to dairy, poultry, and swine farms.

All clinical activities are supervised by teaching staff or by invited practitioners.

#### **2.1.2. Analysis of the findings/Comments**

The VEE has established a wide range of initiatives and an active procedure for developing this area further.

#### **2.1.3. Suggestions**

It is suggested to closely follow up on the implemented changes and identify further potential improvements.

### **2.2. Minor Deficiency 2:**

The VEE is partially compliant with Standard 4.6 because of suboptimal separation of clean and potentially infected routes in the isolation units.

#### **2.2.1. Findings**

This has been addressed in tandem with the Major Deficiency.

A new Biological Isolation and Containment Unit for equines has been entirely redesigned in order to comply with the required standard for isolation, containment and infection control. It functions as a fully independent and self-contained structure, physically separated from all other hospital areas, including the Biological Isolation and Containment Unit for companion

animals. Independent entrances for clinicians, operators, and patients prevent any crossover or shared pathways. Vehicle routes for the delivery and removal of equine patients are also separate and controlled.

To correct the floor cracks, all floors and walls have been resurfaced with seamless, non-porous epoxy coatings to eliminate the cracks and facilitate cleaning and disinfection.

### **2.2.2. Analysis of the findings/Comments**

The changes made to structures, layout, procedures, training and supervision together result in full separation of clean and potentially infected routes in the isolation units.

### **2.2.3. Suggestions**

None

### **2.3. Minor Deficiency 3:**

The VEE is partially compliant with Standard 5.1 because of the suboptimal number of necropsies in food-producing animals.

#### **2.3.1. Findings**

During herd health visits and ambulatory visits, clinicians are encouraged to carry out on-farm necropsies and file the results together with files on necropsies done at the VEE.

#### **2.3.2. Analysis of the findings/Comments**

Evidence was provided of improvements in the numbers of pig and poultry necropsies.

#### **2.2.3. Suggestions**

It is suggested to closely follow up on the implemented changes and identify further potential corrective actions leading to a permanent increase in the necropsy caseload seen at the VEE.

### 3. ESEVT Indicators

<b>Name of the VEE:</b>		<b>Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária - Universidade de Lisboa</b>			
<b>Name &amp; mail of the VEE's Head</b>		<b>Rui Caldeira - ruicaldeira@fmv.ulisboa.pt</b>			
<b>Date of the form filling:</b>		<b>30-dec-25</b>			
<b>Raw data from the last 3 complete academic years</b>		<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>Mean</b>
1	n° of FTE teaching staff involved in veterinary training	130,39	121,39	126,34	126,04
2	n° of undergraduate students	811	809	837	819,00
3	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training	127,39	115,39	120,34	121,04
4	n° of students graduating annually	101	103	112	105,333333
5	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training	134	131	125,34	130,113333
6	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	1068,46	1068,46	1068,46	1068,46
7	n° of hours of Core Clinical Training (CCT)	774	774	774	774
8	n° of hours of VPH (including FSQ) training	232	232	309	257,666667
9	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in VPH (including FSQ)	40	40	40	40
10	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally	12633	14462	14280	13791,6667
11	n° of individual ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally	33	26	14	24,333333
12	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally	524	464	326	438
13	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic patients seen intra-murally	111	153	164	142,7
14	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally	0	0	0	0,0
15	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally	4526	5751	3032	4436,3
16	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally	236	203	378	272,3
17	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic patients seen extra-murally	0	0	0	0,0
18	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds	153	153	145	150,5
19	n° of visits to poultry and farmed rabbit units	8	8	5	7,0
20	n° of companion animal necropsies	414	440	384	412,7
21	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies	79	46	42	55,7
22	n° of equine necropsies	18	20	21	19,7
23	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies	224	189	227	213,3
24	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training	10,5	9,5	8,5	9,5
25	n° of PhD graduating annually	8	5	7	6,7

The boxes within the red frames must be filled in by the VEE (the other values will be automatically calculated)

<b>Name of the VEE:</b>		<b>Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária - Universidade de Lisboa</b>			
<b>Date of the form filling:</b>		<b>30-dec-25</b>			
<b>Calculated Indicators from raw data</b>		<b>VEE values</b>	<b>Median values<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Minimal values<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Balance<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>I1</b>	n° of FTE teaching staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate students	0,154	0,15	0,13	0,028
<b>I2</b>	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	1,149	0,84	0,63	0,519
<b>I3</b>	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	1,235	0,88	0,54	0,695
<b>I4</b>	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	1068,460	953,50	700,59	367,870
<b>I5</b>	n° of hours of Core Clinical Training (CCT)	774,000	941,58	704,80	69,200
<b>I6</b>	n° of hours of VPH (including FSQ) training	257,667	293,50	191,80	65,867
<b>I7</b>	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in VPH (including FSQ)	40,000	75,00	31,80	8,200
<b>I8</b>	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	130,934	67,37	44,01	86,924
<b>I9</b>	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	42,348	18,75	9,74	32,608
<b>I10</b>	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	6,744	5,96	2,15	4,594
<b>I11</b>	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	1,354	3,11	1,16	0,194
<b>I12</b>	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	1,429	1,29	0,54	0,889
<b>I13</b>	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually	0,066	0,11	0,04	0,022
<b>I14</b>	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	3,918	2,11	1,40	2,518
<b>I15</b>	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,528	1,36	0,90	-0,372
<b>I16</b>	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,187	0,18	0,10	0,087
<b>I17</b>	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	2,025	2,65	0,88	1,145
<b>I18</b>	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0,090	0,27	0,06	0,030
<b>I19</b>	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually	0,063	0,15	0,07	-0,007

### **3.1. Findings**

All Indicators are above the minimal value, except I15 and I19 which are slightly below the minimal values as it was seen during the September 2024 FV.

### **3.2. Analysis of the findings/Comments**

A strategy is still in place to increase the number of necropsies in FPA and the number of PhD-students.

### **3.3. Suggestions**

None.

## **4. Executive Summary**

The Major Deficiency ('Non-compliance with Standard 4.9 because of insufficient posting and implementation of the biosecurity procedures in several facilities, e.g. dissection room, necropsy room and equine isolation unit.') identified after the full visitation on 23 - 27 September 2024 has been addressed extensively.

With the actions taken, the Team proposed that the VEE had rectified the major deficiency.

The Team identified an ongoing process to correct the Minor Deficiencies, which have been addressed and most of them rectified by the VEE. Actions are in place to rectify these permanently. The full effect of these actions will be visible in the current and coming academic years.

**Decision of ECOVE**

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiency identified after the Full Visitation on 23 - 27 September 2024 had been corrected.

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