



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO



Facoltà di Medicina Veterinaria

TO:

EAEVE Head Office
Dr. Ursula Deimel

EAEVE Executive Director
Prof. Dr. Gert Niebauer

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Milan, 5 September 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Find enclosed the Addendum to the Final Report that summarize our activities on Type 1 and 2 Deficiencies.

We remain at your disposal for any other needs or concerns.

Yours sincerely

The Dean of the Faculty
(Prof. Giorgio Poli)

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – University of Milan (Italy)
ECOVE Accreditation Process

ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL STATUS QUO REPORT (September, 2012)

Major Deficiency n. 4 – No isolation facilities for farm animals

From the “Milan Evaluation Report”:

“In the food animal section, the isolation facilities were forgotten; thus no separation of infected and non-infected animals possible. As long as there are no proper isolation facilities in the food animal unit there is a potential Category 1 Deficiency”.

Summary of the information included in previous reports

In October 2010 (first report) the structures and spaces that could be used for the construction of the isolation unit were identified in the food animal ward in the Large Animals Teaching Hospital (LATH). The spaces were created from the only partially used animal breeding unit,

In the Second Report, presented in April 2011, the Faculty proposed a solution other than the one presented previously. This choice was determined by the difficulty in obtaining adequate financial resources from the University.

This second solution would be equally effective, although with a smaller outlay. Two completely separate holding rooms were obtained, one for large animals (cows) and one for small animals (calves, sheep and goats).

In the Final Report presented in November 2011, we informed the Commission that the funding was received in October, and then the work would not be completed until the spring of 2012. At the same time, in an attached document was also presented the final plan of the isolation unit, being built according to all the rules of biosafety

Status of Art

Since the beginning of May this year, the Isolation Unit is operational and available for any infectious emergency that may occur.

The Unit is a hospital structure, and therefore the responsibility of its managing and maintaining full efficiency has been entrusted to the Health Director of the LATH.

At the end of this report you can find some images that document the completion of the structural changes to be audited.

Compared with the project already posted, some additions have been made: improvements to the material that covered the floors, the spaces for adult bovine animals and escape routes, to improve the safety of personnel handling animals.

The structure allows the temporary admission of two adults and three or four cattle calves or sheep or goats. Given the function of pure emergency, it has been decided that such a number of places to be sufficient for the needs.

In fact, the animals come to the hospital accompanied by all health certificates prescribed by law and are subjected to a careful visit for admission to verify the effective clinical state.

The risk is therefore limited to the diffusive diseases and zoonoses potentially in incubation that may arise after hospitalization. Moreover, in Italy, for the majority of notifiable diseases, the killing and destruction of animals by the public authority are planned.

Structural and functional improvements

The entry of isolation unit was made on one peripheral side of the pre-existing structures, in an area in which it is not normally expected transit of animals. This area is easily accessible from other parts of the hospital without the isolated animals coming into contact with the other animal patients.

For flooring was chosen epoxy resin, laid flat and ensuring there are no leaks. In this way the coating is easily cleanable and lends itself also to frequent cycles of disinfection also using steam. In addition, these floors are non-slip even in wet or damp.

Discharges of wastewater department isolation enter a chlorination unit to ensure the destruction of all the present potentially pathogenic microorganisms (in this regard, it should be noted that pathogenic microorganisms are less resistant to chlorine than most non-pathogens so that disinfection can be effective without sterilization).

Provided for ventilation, a new air conditioning system has been installed. All rooms are maintained under negative pressure with respect to the external environment; in this way, the spread of airborne pathogens is undoubtedly prevented. Moreover, the extracted air passes through sterilizing filters.

All the doors of the biosafety ward guarantee the isolation of the hospitalized animals and the negative pressure of the premises ensures against leakage of potentially infectious agents.

Entry and exit of personnel are recorded daily and all the operations taking place in the isolation unit are regulated by a specific SOP that all staff members sign for acceptance.

All the students receive a specific training on biosecurity rules during the lessons of Infectious Diseases in the third year of the degree course. In this way they are prepared for any emergency that should be involved during the period of attendance of the LATH, expected during the fourth and fifth year of the course.

Personnel handling animals shall enter into a changing room and wears disposable overalls and footwear. Once used, the clothing is placed in sealed containers and sterilized by autoclave. Coming out of the isolation rooms, the staff undergoes disinfectant shower before putting on their clothes.

A plan of management of working and ancillary premises has been developed and applied in daily operations. In this plan, the basic concepts of biosecurity to equipment and to flows of people and animals have been applied. Segregation of clean and dirty areas (or high/low risk areas) has been established, using dedicated procedures.

Sequence of all process steps are currently registered with particular regard to cleaning and disinfection procedures and personnel routes. The staff are accounted with appropriate signature sheets, inputs, duration of stay and hygiene practices at the end of the work shift.

All these requisites have been integrated in an HACCP system, the aim of which is to reduce the risk of introduction of diffusive diseases in the hospital. The identification of the critical points has been realized applying a logical approach.

In case of problems, control measures are supported by detailed procedures and specifications to ensure their efficacy. For instance, segregation of infected animals, modes of transportation and final destination are planned and organized.

A service chart of LATH, which will be implemented in a system of internal quality, is also in preparation. This document contains the procedures and the instructions governing the documentation for the admission and discharge of the animals in collaboration with the farm veterinary practitioner.

Manual, procedures and records will be made available for use during the revisit.



Figure n. 1. Entrance of the isolation unit.



Figure 2. The calves housing room: detailed floor plan.



Figure 3. Tank for the chlorination of manure.



Figure 4. Barrier door for the isolation of hospitalized animals.



Figure n. 5. Entrance to the room for the preparation of staff that will be in contact with the animals and dedicated staff's toilets.



Figure 7. Dedicated corridor for staff to access to the isolated rooms.

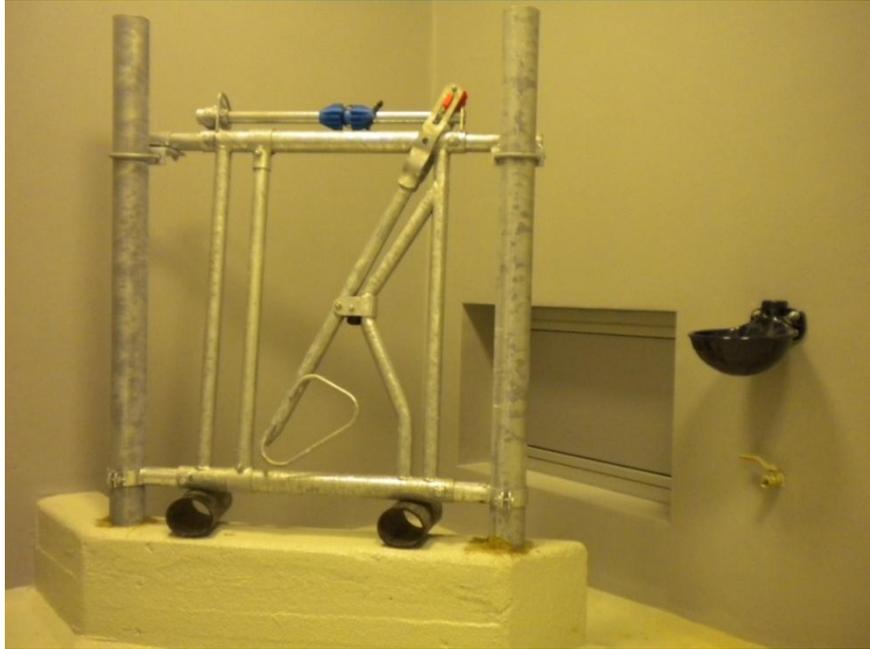


Figure 8. Trap capture, the place where adult cattle can feed and drink.

UPDATE OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN November 2011

Major deficiency n. 1 - No hospitalization of small animals

In the final report of November 2011, the consolidated data at 2011, July 31 of the activity of the small animal hospitalization were reported.

The activity has been suspended during the period of closure of the Faculty (August 2011). From September to December 2011 were performed pre-planned works for the upgrading and improvement of the premises and facilities of Emergency Medicine.

The activity is resumed at full capacity in January 2012 and below clinical cases and student attendances until the month of July 2012 are reported.

Animals admitted: 106 (Dogs: 63. Cats: 43).

Ward: 71%

Intensive Care Unit: 29%

Surgery: 88% (98% soft tissue, including oncologic cases and 2% orthopaedics).

Internal Medicine: 12%

Students admitted: 182

Major Deficiency n. 2 - Lack of mobile clinic

The activity of the Mobile Clinic has continued in the period from November 2011 (previous data already reported) to July 2012. Number and type of educational tours are given below.

From the 1st of November 2011 to 31 July 2012, 97 exits of the Mobile Clinic have been performed. Of these, 53 concerned the cattle, 34 horses and 10 pigs.

89 practical lessons in the field were given by vet practitioners qualified as contract professors, and 8 by the teachers of the Faculty.

Please note that all activities of the veterinary practice are agreed and planned with the teacher responsible for managing the Mobile Clinic.

Students who have participated in educational activities of the Mobile Clinic were 571.

Finally, the number of veterinary practitioners qualified as contract professors has been also increased from 10 to 14. In particular, it has been upgraded in the pigs' field by inserting two vets who are also farmers.

Major Deficiency n. 3 - Lack of propaedeutical animals and shortage in food animal patients with particular respect to swine medicine

The activity of hospitalization of cattle at the LATH has regularly continued, confirming the gradual increase already highlighted in the report of November 2011. The daily access of students to the different wards has been also regulated.

Hereafter are listed according to category of animal the admissions run in the LATH from the 1st of January to 31 July 2012.

CALVES

DISEASE	N° OF ANIMALS
Diarrhea and Bowel Disease	39
Ileum	3
Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex	31
Parasites	5
Metabolic Diseases	6
Rumen Drinking	6
Umbilical Diseases	10
Locomotor Diseases	18
Malformation and Congenital Defect	6
Neurological Diseases	5
Other	16

CATTLE

DISEASE	N° OF ANIMALS
Left Displacement of Abomasum	32
Right Displacement of Abomasum	4
Traumatic Reticular Peritonitis	8
Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex	2

Udder Diseases	7
Metabolic Diseases	14
Gynecological Problems	16
Locomotor Diseases	15
Neurological diseases	2
Bowel Disease and Peritonitis	12
Other	15

SWINE

DISEASE	N° OF ANIMALS
Cryptorchidism	79

SHEEP-GOATS

DISEASE	N° OF ANIMALS
Bowel Disease	1
Rumen Disease	1
Respiratory Disease	1
Ileum	1

The number of animals housed in the Husbandry Unit of the Faculty (Livestock Experimental Centre) remained almost constant, since the task is now fully operational. Cattle, pigs, small ruminants and poultry are now regularly present in large numbers.

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Category 2 Deficiencies

1) Small number of companion animals used in anatomical dissection

The resolution of this non-compliance was already documented in the first report in October 2010.

The number of pet animals used during the dissection teaching of basic anatomy has remained constant and the agreement with the municipal kennels in the city of Milan is still valid. Only dogs that died of natural non-infectious causes are immediately withdrawn and used for educational purposes.

2) Improvement of Food Hygiene and Safety

A Commission (made up of professors of Microbiology, Infectious Diseases of Domestic Animals, Avian Pathology, Food Inspection and Legislation), described in the first report, has done its work, with the aim to integrate for an improved teaching of the above disciplines.

The interaction between the different sectors of education has increased and the discussion of didactic issues from different points of view in the same year periods has been planned and applied. Multidisciplinary seminars have been organized and have given the expected results.

3) Reconsideration of Exam System

During the year 2011, the University of Milan has activated an internal Evaluation Committee, which examined the Graduation Courses operating in Single Cycle, including that of Veterinary Medicine.

This Evaluation Board has expressed a favorable opinion on the current status of the degree course and pointed out the objectives to be achieved over the next three years which may be summarized as follows:

- Achievement of EAEVE Accreditation (we believe we are ready in this regard).
- Improvement of educational quality, especially in practice through the acquisition by the Faculty of veterinary professionals from the sectors of experimental zoonoses, farm animals and pet animals.
- Increase the rate of graduates in the regular course
- Monitoring of indicators of students' careers, tracking the careers of students to identify the barriers to regular studies
- Reconsider the design of the course, examining the correlation between workload and credits, the distribution of credits between different courses and prerequisites.

The Nucleus also suggests considering the opportunity to: increase content and application in the field, both in relation to the needs expressed by students, and the employment difficulties, take steps to; increase the international attractiveness of the course, specifically by increasing teaching in English.

A copy of the report will be made available to the audit team and discussed in detail during the revisits.

Milan, 05 September 2012.