



**RE-VISITATION REPORT**

**To the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Aydin Adnan Menderes University, Aydin,  
Türkiye**

**On 11 – 13 October 2023**

**By the Re-visitation Team:**

**László Fodor**, Budapest, Hungary: Chairperson

**Pierre Lekeux**, Liège, Belgium: ESEVT Coordinator

## **Contents of the Re-visitation Report**

### Introduction

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

## **Introduction**

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Aydin Adnan Menderes University (called the Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) in this report) was evaluated by an ESEVT team in October 2021. In December 2021, ECOVE concluded that:

-) Three Minor Deficiencies had been identified, i.e.:

1. Partial compliance with Standard 2.1 because of suboptimal financing of activities of the VEE.
2. Partial compliance with Standard 4.3 because the standards and the capacity of livestock facilities are suboptimal.
3. Partial compliance with Standard 4.9 because operational policies and procedures are not fully posted for students, staff and visitors.

-) Four Major Deficiencies had been identified, i.e.:

1. Non-compliance with Standard 4.1 because the facilities do not comply with all relevant legislation, including health, safety, biosecurity, and animal welfare and care standards.
2. Non-compliance with Standard 4.6 because the isolation facilities did not meet the standards.
3. Non-compliance with Standard 5.1 because the number and variety of healthy and diseased animals, cadavers, and material of animal origin is not adequate for providing practical and safe hands-on training to students.
4. Non-compliance with Standard 5.4 because there is no functional case records system to allow effective retrieval of comprehensive medical records to efficiently support the teaching, research and service programmes of the VEE.

In accordance with the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT) and the 2019 ESEVT SOP as amended in December 2020, the status of the VEE of the Aydin Adnan Menderes University is Non-Accreditation.

A Re-visitation (RV) was planned in October 2023 and the RV Self-Evaluation Report (RSER) was submitted to EAEVE and the team in due time. The RSER was amended after the RV to correct errors and missing facts. The RV was well prepared and organised and in full agreement with the SOP.

The ESEVT SOP 2019 as amended in December 2020 is valid for this RV.

## **1. Correction of the Major Deficiencies**

**1.1. Major Deficiency 1: Non-compliance with Standard 4.1 because the facilities do not comply with all relevant legislation, including health, safety, biosecurity, and animal welfare and care standards.**

### **1.1.1. Findings**

The VEE increased the number of fire extinguishers, several signposts and now floor markings inform staff members, students, and clients on access to different rooms. Wearing protective clothes was regulated by the management. New rules regarding drug management were introduced and all drug-related records are kept now complete. UV lamps and ozone devices were installed to increase the efficacy of disinfection. An occupational safety specialist was hired to monitor occupational safety matters. The biosafety level of the mobile clinic was also increased. The old farm was replaced by a new one that meets the animal welfare requirements.

### **1.1.2. Comments**

None.

### **1.1.3. Suggestions**

None.

### **1.1.4. Decision**

Major Deficiency 1 has been fully corrected and the VEE is compliant with Standard 4.1.

**1.2. Major Deficiency 2: Non-compliance with Standard 4.6 because the isolation facilities did not meet the standards.**

### **1.2.1. Findings**

All isolation facilities were reconstructed. An entrance room was added to the small animal isolation unit, and it can be used for changing clothes, handwashing and disinfection. Hepa-filtered ventilation and UV-disinfection were installed, and a signpost helped to increase the level of biosafety. A new process was introduced in the collection and rendering of biological waste of the isolation units.

### **1.2.2. Comments**

None.

### **1.2.3. Suggestions**

None.

### **1.2.4. Decision**

Major Deficiency 2 has been fully corrected and the VEE is compliant with Standard 4.6.

**1.3. Major Deficiency 3: Non-compliance with Standard 5.1 because the number and variety of healthy and diseased animals, cadavers, and material of animal origin is not adequate for providing practical and safe hands-on training to students.**

**1.3.1. Findings**

The VEE increased the number and variety of healthy and diseased animals, and materials of animal origin in the recent two years, however, the COVID-19 lockdown and the compulsory online teaching ordered by the Turkish Ministry of Education in the spring semester of the academic year 2022/2023 because of the great earthquake in early 2023 hindered this process. The VEE made great efforts to compensate this force majeure. A new Faculty Farm was built to house healthy animals needed to teaching (see details later in Point 2.2.), an agreement made with the Agriculture Faculty gives access for veterinary students to its farm, students are more intensively involved in the work of the Laboratory Animal Unit of the VEE, the Clinical Skills Lab (CSL) was enlarged, new equipment was invested, use of carcasses in clinical training was introduced, and a rotational program was set up. The number of patients seen both intra-murally and extra-murally increased after the recent visitation. The VEE made several bilateral agreements with local and regional authorities, firms and associations that accept students in the framework of mobile clinic training and provide carcasses to postmortem examinations. The rotational program of the mobile clinic is available on the homepage of the VEE. The number of farm visits became higher, and the number of carcasses used in necropsy also increased. Several tools were used by the VEE in order to compensate for the deficiencies; a veterinary Day One Competences server was installed, and a large set of videos, photographs and lectures have been uploaded. They include teaching material on different clinical and postmortem examination techniques and cases. A new online course (VET409 Necropsy – Demonstration course) was also developed to compensate for the limited number of postmortem cases. Extension of the activity of the VEE from a radius of 50 km to 100 km by the local authorities helps to increase the caseload. The Quality Unit and the management of the VEE regard increasing the caseload as a priority, they have several plans to reach this target.

**1.3.2. Comments**

Because of the compulsory online teaching in the spring semester of the academic year 2022/2023, the figures for the autumn semester were extrapolated to the complete year by doubling them. Determination of the VEE to rectify the Major Deficiency regarding Standard 5.1. is evident, the achievements of the recent two years show it. Emergency laughter, farm quarantines, government regulations and regional disease outbreaks limit the increase of necropsy cases.

**1.3.3. Suggestions**

Further efforts of the VEE are needed to maintain and increase the caseload of the recent years. Figures of the Interim Report should carefully be analysed.

**1.3.4. Decision**

Major Deficiency 3 has been fully corrected and the VEE is compliant with Standard 5.1.

**1.4. Major Deficiency 4: Non-compliance with Standard 5.4 because there is no functional case records system to allow effective retrieval of comprehensive medical records to efficiently support the teaching, research and service programmes of the VEE.**

#### **1.4.1. Findings**

A new electronic record system (e-VET system) was introduced at the VEE. It includes cases of the VTH, mobile clinic, emergency services and farms and it can be used by staff members and students.

#### **1.4.2. Comments**

None.

#### **1.4.3. Suggestions**

None.

#### **1.4.4. Decision**

Major Deficiency 4 has been fully corrected and the VEE is compliant with Standard 5.4.

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

### **2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: Partial compliance with Standard 2.1 because of suboptimal financing of activities of the VEE.**

#### **2.1.1. Findings**

Evaluation of the financial data of the VEE is very difficult because of the high inflation rate of Turkish Lira in the recent years. The VEE provided data both in Turkish Lira and Euro. The revenues from public authorities increased by 85% and the total revenues by 90% in Turkish Lira in the recent years, but the increase of the expenditures was also high (81%). The figures in Euro show a considerable decrease in revenues and expenditures between the academic years of 2020/2021 and 2022/2023. The annual balance was negative two years ago, but 2.7% of the total income is planned to be saved in 2023, and it shows the better financial situation of the VEE, however, the funding of the VEE remains below that of the Faculty of Medicine. The financial constraints because of the earthquake on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 had a negative influence on the VEE.

#### **2.1.2. Comments**

The efforts of the VEE are to be commended because the VEE accomplished renovation of the VTH, updated the isolation unit and the necropsy room, and introduced a new case record system despite the financial difficulties.

The VEE is compliant with Standard 2.1.

#### **2.1.3. Suggestions**

None.

### **2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: Partial compliance with Standard 4.3 because the standards and the capacity of livestock facilities are suboptimal.**

#### **2.2.1. Findings**

## **FINAL REPORT AS ISSUED BY ECOVE ON 11 DECEMBER 2023**

The former teaching farm was closed and a new one was built on the campus to house 6 cattle, 4 goats, 28 sheep and 9 pigs. All animals have paddock and grazing area, the new facility meets the animal welfare standards. The teaching area and the changing room of students are appropriate.

### **2.2.2. Comments**

The deficiency has been corrected.  
The VEE is compliant with Standard 4.3.

### **2.2.3. Suggestions**

More active involvement of students in farm work is recommended.

## **2.3. Minor Deficiency 3: Partial compliance with Standard 4.9 because operational policies and procedures are not fully posted for students, staff and visitors.**

### **2.3.1. Findings**

Biosecurity signs were placed in relevant areas, biosafety information was included in the Student Information System, the Biosafety Guide of the VEE was updated, and new biosafety training was introduced.

### **2.3.2. Comments**

The deficiency has been corrected.  
The VEE is compliant with Standard 4.9.

### **2.3.3. Suggestions**

None.

## **3. ESEVT Indicators**

### **3.1. Findings**

Four indicators are below the minimum value, i.e. I8, I14, I15 and I16. The indicator I8 is only 2.8% lower than the minimum one. The other indicators are mainly linked to the number of necropsies in common species. The lower postmortem caseload is compensated by using different online teaching materials.

### **3.2. Comments**

In addition to the limited caseload, the lower values of the indicators can be explained by the increased number of graduates. As a result of the COVID-19 lockdown, several students postponed their final exams, and the number of graduates in the recent years increased by 30%, resulting in higher denominators.

### **3.3. Suggestions**

It is suggested to continue the ongoing efforts of the VEE to increase the caseload.

#### **4. Conclusions**

The Major and Minor Deficiencies have been corrected.

## **Decision of ECOVE**

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiencies identified after the Full Visitation on 11 – 15 October 2021 had been corrected.

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