

## **TEMPUS IV BELGRADE/LJUBLJANA, March 2014**

### **REPORT ON SHORT VISIT FOR COORDINATION, PLANNING AND QUALITY CONTROL IN CLINICAL SCIENCES**

A short visit of University in Belgrade, Faculty of veterinary medicine, with an emphasis on coordination, planning and quality control in clinical sciences was carried out by assist. prof. Alenka Seliškar from University of Ljubljana, Veterinary faculty, in a period of March 5<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup> 2014. The main purpose of this visit was to assess facilities where clinical teaching is carried out in order to help the teaching staff from University in Belgrade, Faculty of veterinary medicine, to prepare for EAEVE pre-visitation which is planned at the end of year 2014. Of particular interest were facilities and equipment, animals and teaching material of animal origin, and animal case-load for training. During the visit, an evaluation of five clinics has been performed and major deficiencies that were observed are listed as it follows:

#### **1. Katedra za hirurgiju, oftalmologiju i ortopediju (Surgery)**

##### 1.1 Facilities and equipment

Operating theatres are old fashioned and need to be renovated according to the regulations for construction of veterinary clinics. The surgical equipment is modest and deficient to perform advanced surgical procedures. No anaesthesia machines are in use and anaesthesia is performed with limited choice of injectable anaesthetics and without animals being intubated. There is no record on use of opioid drugs. There are no appropriate facilities for pre and postoperative animal care. The disposal of dangerous waste material (used needles, syringes etc.) is not in accordance with the regulations.

##### 1.2 Animals and teaching material of animal origin/animal case load

According to the book of cases and statement of the head of the department, the following number of surgeries is performed at the clinic (data for 2013): 120 to 140 small animals, 10 large animals, 10 to 15 exotics. However, there are no patient records (paper or electronic) to track the treatment of the animals at the clinic.

#### **2. Katedra za porodiljstvo, sterilitet i veštačko osemenjavanje (Obstetrics, Reproduction and reproduction disorders)**

##### 2.1 Facilities and equipment

No anaesthesia machines are in use and anaesthesia is performed with limited choice of injectable anaesthetics and without animals being intubated. There is no record on use of opioid drugs. There are no appropriate facilities for pre and postoperative animal care. The disposal of dangerous waste material (used needles, syringes etc.) is not in accordance with the regulations.

## 2.2 Animals and teaching material of animal origin/animal case load

According to the statement of the head of the department, the following number of obstetric/reproductive cases are handled at the clinic (data for 2013): 200 client-owned small animals (40 % surgical cases) and approx. 450 dogs in neutering programme of stray dogs. Approx. 200 horses are examined annually (endoscopy, ultrasound, microbiology) and students attend practical lectures on a cattle farm “PKB” to perform various activities/interventions in cattle (joint lectures with other departments - surgery). There are no patient records (paper or electronic) to track the treatment of the animals.

## **3. Katedra za bolesti kopitara, mesojeda, živine i divljači (Clinical medicine of the various domestic animals, poultry and other animal species)**

### 3.1 Facilities and equipment

The disposal of dangerous waste material (used needles, syringes etc.) is not in accordance with the regulations. There is no record on use of opioid drugs and no active scavenging of anaesthesia waste gases.

## 2.3 Animals and teaching material of animal origin/animal case load

The annual caseload is 1400 small animals (approx. 700 anaesthesia cases), 60 exotics, 5 horses (in house) and 60 horses (external). The record for a single animal is not managed on one place, i.e., patient can have more records (cardiology, neurology, internal medicine etc.) that are not kept in one place. Because of this it is impossible to have an insight of the complete treatment of the animal or to prove that the students did actually participated in the diagnostic procedures/treatment of the animals.

## **4. Katedra za radiologiju i radiacionu higijenu (Radiology, Diagnostic imaging)**

### 4.1 Facilities and equipment

The disposal of dangerous waste material (toxic waste material from processing of radiographs) is not in accordance with the regulations. Radiographs are not always labelled.

### 4.2 Animals and teaching material of animal origin/animal case load

There are no patient records (paper or electronic), except for radiographs of hip dysplasia for breeding purposes, to prove the number of radiographs performed annually.

## **5. Klinika za papkare (Clinical medicine of farm animals – cattle, sheep, goats and pigs).**

### 5.1 Facilities and equipment

Teaching theatre is old fashioned but still functional. Regarding the fact that most of the teaching process in cattle, sheep, goats and swine is carried out on the farms, this is not a

major deficiency. However if there could be provided funds to renovate the facilities, I would strongly suggest to renovate them.

## 5.2 Animals and teaching material of animal origin/animal case load

Students attend practical lectures on a cattle farm “PKB” to perform various activities/interventions in cattle (joint lectures with other departments). However there are no patient records (paper or electronic) to track the number of the animals treated and to prove that the students did actually participated in the diagnostic procedures/treatment of the animals.

### **Facilities and equipment - conclusions and suggestions**

Individual departments are located in distant objects which obstructs tighter cooperation between the departments. The only long-term solution that would overcome this problem for small animal practice in the future would be to invest into a new object and unite all the departments within one clinical centre (Clinical medicine, Surgery, Radiology etc.).

### **Student and staff interviews**

During the visit, interviews with students and other staff were performed to get unbiased impression on the teaching process. The major observations are as follows:

#### 1. Surgery

Students are not actively involved in surgical procedures (hands on patient!) and are allowed only to observe procedures. The groups of students are too big (up to 20 students attending one procedure in the theatre). Too small number of patients – sometimes there are no patients and they are redirected to other departments although they should practice surgery. The department working hours are limited more or less between 9 am to 1 pm, which limits the caseload. No postoperative intensive care is provided, which strongly limits the level of the surgeries performed. The safety of students and staff as well as asepsis may be questionable as some of the staff recommends surgeries to be performed without surgical gloves. There is also a lack of study material/literature.

#### 2. Obstetrics/Reproduction

Students are satisfied with practical lectures in large animals as they are provided with a large number of different cases and the staff is willing to work with students. However, despite the appropriate number of small animals treated at this department, most of the students were not able to practise on them.

#### 3. Clinical medicine/domestic animals, poultry and other animal species

Students are actively involved in consultations, laboratory work and at intensive care of hospitalized animals. However they are not participating (assisting) at the surgeries.

#### 4. Radiology

Some of the radiographs are old and of bad quality. The problem is that the radiographs are taken with the owners of the animals and not kept at Radiology to be used by students. The introduction of digital radiography could solve this problem (the lecture room needs to be equipped with PCs for students).

## 5. Clinical medicine/farm animals

Students are satisfied with practical lectures in large animals as they are provided with a large number of different cases but the major problem is the attitude of one of the employees who is not interested in teaching students. Thus the quality of practical lectures strongly depends on the individual working with the students.

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