



European Veterinarians in
Education, Research and Industry

EXTERNAL PRACTICAL TRAINING VETS AND BEES

Gaining Experience in Beekeeping - Programme for Veterinary Students

As all veterinary students need to spend some time gaining laboratory and field work experience in the various fields of the veterinary profession. They also should get practical skills with clinical examinations of honey bee colonies and other veterinarian tasks at apiaries.

EVERI (European Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry, a section of the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe, FVE) functions as information hub which will address this situation. EVERI is in process to establish contact with the various colleges of specialisation to gauge the interest for a proposal addressing the specialist needs of beekeeping.

In collaboration with The University of Zagreb, Department for Biology and Pathology of Fish and Bees in Croatia, EVERI (European Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry) has launched a new EPT (External Practical Training) initiative in beekeeping – project VETS and BEES.

Aim of this workshop is to practically present main veterinarian's tasks in apiary: clinical inspection of honeybee colony, recognizing of disease signs on brood and adult bees, official sampling, basic of laboratory examinations, and presentation of serious disease control, preventive and eradication measures.

Background

Health of honey bee colonies is crucial in successful beekeeping and pollination. Veterinarians have a vital role in the health of honey bee colonies and their notifiable disease control and eradication. Also, honey bee colonies are reared mainly because of apian products production intended mainly for human consumption. This veterinary position is reflected in all regulated areas worldwide. It is an area of veterinary medicine to which under graduate students get little exposure during their regular studies of veterinary medicine, except for veterinary students in countries with a certain degree of biology and pathology of bees. This area is often not immediately attractive to young graduates and the continuing entry of graduate students into the beekeeping and apiculture medicine should be fostered on a European and international level.

Scheme

A scheme by which veterinary students will be encouraged and supported to undertake external practical training (EPT) in this area has been established by EVERI. The scheme has a bank of host veterinarians, and honeybee biologists and pathologist working in this area who are prepared to allow students to work with them for up to 2 weeks.

The students are given vouched expenses of up to 800 €. Funds are provided from EVERI.

A typical program will have the following components

1. One week practical training in care of University of Zagreb, Department for Biology and Pathology of Fish and Bees in Croatia:

Day 1:

The students will get a tour of a Department and Laboratory for Honeybee Pathology, followed by a scientific presentation *Role of veterinarians in beekeeping*

Day 2:

Diagnostic work in Laboratory for Honeybee Pathology

Day 3:

Apiary visits, presentation on clinical examination of honey bee colonies and official sampling

Day 4:

Apiary visits, presentation on serious disease control (e.g. varroosis), preventive and eradication measures.

Day 5: Presentation “*Recognizing honeybee diseases*”, followed by group discussion

The teaching will be in English.

2. One week training with official veterinarians:

The student will accompany veterinarians in daily work at apiaries (in collaboration with Croatian Veterinary Chamber)

Preparing final report.

Participation of Veterinary schools

To enable this scheme to move ahead it is necessary to have the co-operation of the veterinary schools which are prepared to participate in the scheme.

It is necessary that the involved vet schools are prepared to:

- They will make information available to their students about the scheme i.e. provide facilities for publicity e.g. web and a method to distribute information to the students. We will also use IVSA and Researchgate to achieve this.
- Provide a contact person to co ordinate the scheme within the school.
- Evaluate and decide if their students could get ECTS credits for their participation in the scheme.
- Students will spend one week in a learning program at The University of Zagreb, Department for Biology and Pathology of Fish and Bees in Croatia and one week with a host veterinarian.

Management of the scheme

- A student who wishes to use the scheme will apply to EVERI on the application form (send to EB -project leader).
- The status of the student will be verified by an appropriate person in the vet school and confirmed to EVERI
- EVERI will connect the student with local host veterinarians and representatives from The University of Zagreb, Department for Biology and Pathology of Fish and Bees in Croatia.
- A programme and time scale covers for the VETS AND BEES scheme two weeks as described above and can be further detailed between the host and the student.
- The student will provide a report to the vet school and to EVERI, which must be received by EVERI before expenses are reimbursed.
- The student will claim expenses up to 800 €.

The program will provide an EPT experience which will educate veterinary students, interested in veterinary medicine IN BEEKEEPING to be used later on in their further career.