



European Veterinarians in
Education, Research and Industry

EXTERNAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (EPT) SCHEME IN AQUAMEDICINE

Gaining Experience in Aquatic Medicines - Programme for Veterinary Students

All veterinary students need to spend some time gaining work experience in the veterinary field with veterinarians.

The general areas such as equine or farm animal and companion animal medicine are normally addressed by the individual vet school. However, the specialist areas may be harder to find.

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 aquaculture.

A comparable programme of EPT for students with interest in Veterinary Public Health, and another in Bee – medicine is also being set up.

Background

Veterinarians have a vital role in the health and welfare of aquatic animals farmed for human consumption.

This position is reflected in all regulated areas worldwide.

It is an area of specialisation to which under graduates get little exposure during their training except for veterinary students in countries with a certain degree of aquaculture. The area is not immediately attractive to young graduates and the continuing entry of young graduates into the Aquatic medicine specialisation should be fostered on a European and international level.

Scheme

A scheme by which veterinary students will be encouraged and supported to undertake extra practical training (EPT) in this area, has been established by EVERI.

The scheme has a bank of host veterinarians, and fish biologists working in this area who are prepared to allow students to work with them for up to 1 week. In addition, The Norwegian University of Life Sciences has agreed to host students for one week at their practical training for Norwegian veterinary students each year.

The students are given vouched expenses of up to 800 €. Funds are provided from various commercial sources including seafood companies.

A typical program will have the following components

1. One week training with a private Fish Health company:
The student will accompany veterinarians and fish biologists in daily work at fish farms, and slaughterhouse
2. One week practical training in care of The Norwegian University of Life Sciences:
Day 1: The students will get a tour of a slaughterhouse, and practical training in autopsying slaughterhouse material, followed by a scientific presentation in the evening
Day 2: Farm visits and group work in the evening
Day 3: Farm visits, presentation in the evening on vaccination of fish by a pharmaceutical company
Day 4: Scientific presentation at noon, followed by group work in the afternoon.
Day 5: Presentation of group projects, evaluation
The teaching will mostly be in Norwegian, but the fellow Norwegian students will be helpful with translation.

3. Written 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 to achieve this.
- Provide a contact person to co ordinate the scheme within the school.
- Allow their students credits for their participation in the scheme; students will spend one week in a learning program with students at The Norwegian School of Veterinary Science 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 Norwegian University of Life Sciences.
- A programme and time scale covers for the Aquatic Animal scheme two weeks as described above and can be further detailed between the host and the student.
- The visit will take place.
- 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 €. These to be vouched for by the host veterinarian.