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Minutes

“European College of Veterinary Morphology: State of affairs and discussion”

held during the Third Meeting of the Young Generation of Veterinary Anatomists, Ghent-Antwerp, July 13th-15th, 2005

Chairs: Wim Van den Broeck (Ghent) & Christoph Mülling (Berlin)

Minutes: Christiane Pfarrer (Giessen)

Location, Date & Time: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent, July 14th, 15h00 - 16h30

Christoph Mülling:

- Welcomes participants, introduces to the general idea of an “European College of Veterinary Medicine” and the term “European Board of Veterinary Specialization (EBVS)”.

Wim Van den Broeck:

- Presents data on the general organisation of European Colleges and their approval by the EBVS
- Points out the difference between visited and approved Faculties of Veterinary Medicine (EAEVE) up to date 52 teaching facilities) and the EBVS, which are both supervised by the European Commission
- Explains all the requirements a potential College has to go through before being approved
- Reminds the participants of the occasion when the official proposal to develop a European College of Morphology was made by Professor Simoens on the occasion of the EAVA General assembly in Oslo 2004. At that time the General assembly agreed on the formation of a study group to develop a concept to be proposed to the EAVA General assembly in Messina 2006.

- presentation of a preliminary constitution of the future “European College of Veterinary Morphology” (ECVM)
- Ends the presentation with raising questions to answered by the participants of the 3rd Meeting of the Young Generation of Veterinary Anatomists and finally by the members of the EAVA. These are:
 1. Study group = Organizing group ?
 2. Training programme ?
 3. Examinations ?
 4. Founding members ?
 5. Membership renewal ?

Christoph Mülling:

- Thanks Wim Van den Broeck and introduces Professor Gasthuys, the president elected of the EBVS

Professor Gasthuys:

- Places the efforts of European Specialists to establish Colleges of Specializations in the historical context to explain the difficulties of the European Colleges to overcome the rules/standards set by much earlier formed American Colleges of Specialization (already 30 years ago versus 10 years of European history in this aspect).
- Reminds the participants that not only the establishment of a College of Specialization is very time consuming, but the maintenance in the long run requires the continuous input of a large supporting group of Diplomates.
- Tells his personal experiences of working for a European College and the legal problems a College could face when not set up appropriately.

Professor Simoens:

- Reminds the audience that there is no American College of Morphology up to date. Therefore it would be important to found a European College as soon as possible.

Professor Gasthuys:

- Mentions the necessity to have a strong Association in the background, because the costs especially of the examinations are very high.
- Proposes to associate the regular meetings of the College/Trainings days/Examinations with the annual meeting of the Association
- Introduces the website of the EBVS to check for advice and examples

Christoph Mülling:

- Thanks Professor Gasthuys for coming and sharing his knowledge with the audience
- Asks for ideas concerning the first question: Study group = Organizing group ?

Christiane Pfarrer and Stefan Arnholt:

- Volunteer for organizing group

Wim Van den Broeck:

- Reminds to keep the size of the organizing group as small as possible to make and keep it workable

Christoph Mülling:

- Raises the question whether a residency could be started right after graduation or whether a period of pre-residency is desirable ?

Kirsti Witter:

- Initiates discussion about approved training centres (further contributions: Claudia Wolschrijn, Stefan Arnholt)

Wim Van den Broeck:

- Clarifies that any Diplomate of the College can educate a potential candidate, and therefore it would be desirable to have as many Diplomates as possible to start with

Wim Van den Broeck & Christoph Mülling:

- Propose 4 years of training, including a time designated for acquiring basic knowledge

Claudia Wolschrijn:

- Emphasizes the advantage of more experienced candidates starting their training

General discussion on the number of publications required, and agreement on 1 major and 2 minor publications.

General discussion on knowledge of the specific literature, and strong support for Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia (AHE) from Professor Simoens. However, other comments are that the impact factor is still too low, and thus some institutions would not allow publication in AHE.

Professor Simoens:

- Proposes that de facto members should only be accepted if they are willing to contribute a substantial support/input to the College

General discussion on the number publications (Peter Cornillie, Wim Van den Broeck, Claudia Wolschrijn, Stefan Arnholt)

Christoph Mülling:

- Closes the meeting, and reminds the participants to discuss the topic with as many colleagues as possible in home departments.

Christiane Pfarrer