

Minutes of the discussion meeting on the European College of Veterinary Anatomy

held at the 4th YGVA meeting in Ljubljana, 8-10 July 2007

- Letter of the Italian Association of Veterinary Morphologists

The letter by the president of the AIMV received by Wim Van den Broeck is read in public and further elucidated by Anna Costagliola. The AIMV has expressed its concern about the erection and organisation of a ECVAnat. The actual items of dispute are however still unclear. According to Anna, the AIMV is planning to have a special meeting on this subject in the near future.

The group agrees with the suggestion of Wim Van den Broeck to continue with the establishment of the ECVAnat and to provide the AIMV of a response when more specific arguments have been raised.

- Resignation of Christophe Mülling

Christophe Mülling has been offered a position in Canada and expressed his intention to quit participating in the foundation of an ECVAnat in an e-mail addressed to Wim Van den Broeck. The group accepts the resignation of Christophe and Wim thanks Christophe sincerely for his work so far. In replacement of Christophe Mülling, the group accepts to appoint a new member for the founding team and elect a new chairman amongst the founding members.

- New founding member

Claudia Wolschrijn (Utrecht, The Netherlands) is willing to participate as a founding member of the ECVAnat, in the subfield of gross anatomy. Her candidature is supported by Wim Van den Broeck and there is a general consent in the group to appoint Claudia as new founding member.

- New chairman

In his resignation e-mail, Christophe Mülling has indicated Wim Van den Broeck (Ghent, Belgium) as possible successor. This nomination is further supported by Prof. Leiser, president of the EAVA. Being informed about these recommendations, the group unanimously elects Wim as chairman for the founding team of the ECVAnat.

- Discussion about the training program

The elaboration of a training program will be the next major task of the founding members. Apart from a basis training in all three morphological disciplines (Gross Anatomy, Histology & Embryology), an in-dept specialisation in one of these three fields should be offered. A draft of how the content of the training program can be described has been presented for the subfield of histology.

Some questions were raised on how strict and profoundly the training program in the subject of specialism (major topic) can & should be described. In-dept knowledge in the “major topic” is predominantly determined by the own topic of investigation of the trainee. It therefore may be better to define the context and expected quality level of the

research to perform, rather than a strict training program. However, this does not mean that no clear description of the training program should be given. In fact the trainee should also be required to have a greater knowledge on less common but still general subjects in its major topic than the required knowledge for the basic training program. Therefore some parts of the training program should be well-described (e.g. extension of the basic knowledge in the major topic), whilst for other parts only certain quality requirements can be given (specific individual research topic). It is suggested that prior to the start of the individual in-dept training, the applicant and/or its mentoring diplomate should submit a proposal for the individual training program to the board of the ECVAnat for evaluation and approval. The members of the founding committee will discuss this suggestion.

In the first draft on an in-dept training program proposed at the meeting, a subdivision in “technical knowledge” and “theoretical knowledge was made”. Regarding the technical knowledge, the candidates are required to acquire practical skills in one or more techniques, and only have a theoretical knowledge of the principles in other techniques. It was suggested that the latter should be extended to a higher level: the trainees should not only have a theoretical knowledge on certain techniques, but should also be able to judge whether results from the proposed technical procedures are accurate, reliable,...

- Discussion on the recognition of training institutes

The group agreed on some general requirements concerning the recognition of institutes:

- the fact that a certain institute does not cover all three morphological disciplines may never form an objection in the acceptance process of the institute;
- recognition of an institute should be based on the training program proposed by the institute;
- institutes that cannot cover the whole training program by themselves must be able to rely on affiliated or external institutes to fill in the gaps; exchange of students is even encouraged;
- an easily accessible list of the research and education topics as well as specific techniques applied in the different morphological institutes all over Europe should be available to the trainees and training institutes.

- Preparations and deadlines before the next formal meeting in Budapest (EAVA 2008)

A list of deadlines has been proposed by Wim. Additionally, the following goals have been set up:

- the intentions of forming a ECVAnat should be communicated to all veterinary morphological institutes all over Europe;
- a list of applied techniques and research topics in the different institutes should be made (actualisation of an existing list);
- at the congress in Budapest, some time for a plenary session should be reserved to discuss the further progress in the establishment of the ECVAnat.