



RAKUNO GAKUEN UNIVERSITY

酪農学園大学



Re-visitation
Self-Evaluation
REPORT | 2024



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Learning will live.*

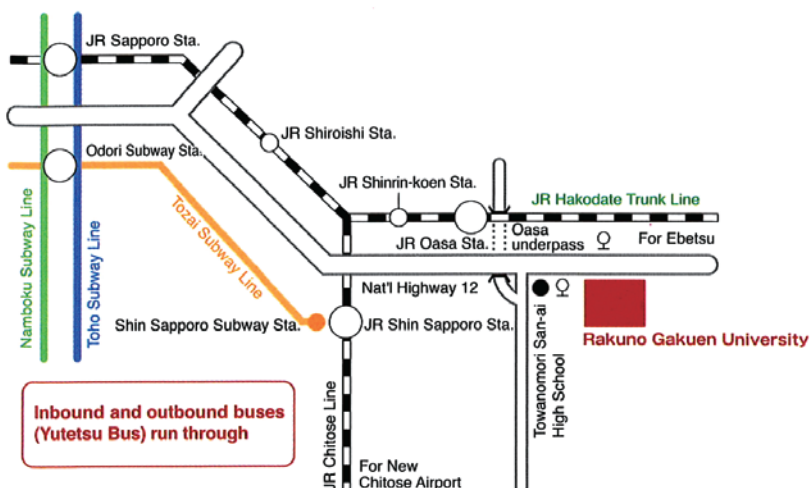
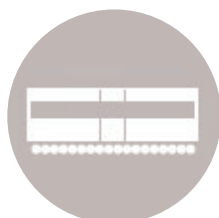
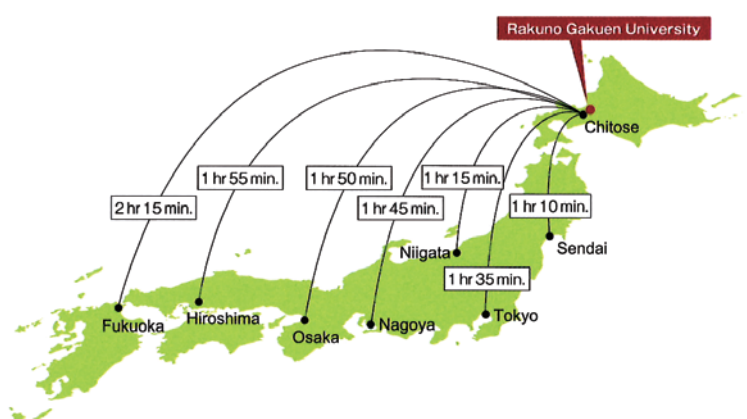
School of Veterinary Medicine,
Rakuno Gakuen University
22nd - 24th, July, 2024

This is the Re-visitation Self-Evaluation Report (**RSER**) of Rakuno Gakuen University (**RGU**) for Re-visitation by the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (**EAEVE**). The RSER is written in English in agreement with the ESEVT Standard Operating Procedure (**SOP**), as approved at the Zagreb General Assembly (**GA**), 30th May 2019. This RSER consists of the report itself and the Appendices that are separately bound with the most relevant information. Other documents and data of interest for the experts will be available at the site visit. If the experts need further information, please feel free to contact the Representative Liaison Officer (Dr. Suzuki, kazuyuki@rakuno.ac.jp).

Location of Rakuno Gakuen University



Google Map



Beliefs of the School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University

We truly believe in our DAY ONE COMPETENCY of veterinary training education in the past, present and future.

We have provided practical veterinary education and training courses to produce veterinarians with keen field-based skills since our establishment was founded.

Going forward, we are determined to never stop contributing to veterinary education for the future.



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Foreword and acknowledgments

This Re-visitation Self-Evaluation Report (**RSER**) was prepared in accordance with the instructions of Zagreb's 2019 ESEVT SOP, as amended in September 2021.

We sincerely appreciate the University's contribution in improving and correcting the two major and four minor deficiencies identified by ESEVT experts between October 23 and 27, 2023. In addition, we would like to acknowledge the Hokkaido Government, Hokkaido Agricultural Mutual Aid, the Alumni Association of Rakuno Gakuen University (**RGU**), and the Student Association for Veterinary Education of RGU (**SAVER**) for their important contributions to this effort.

The School of Veterinary Medicine, RGU(**SVM-RGU**) is proud of the actions and measures taken, which have significantly improved its teaching methods, particularly core clinical training.

We hope that this RSER will provide an accurate and detailed basis for the re-visitation conducted in July 2024 to follow up on the measures implemented by the SVM-RGU following the remarks of the ESEVT-expert teams that visited our university in 2023.

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Introduction

At the beginning of the early 20th century (1912-1926), farming villages in Hokkaido, Japan were left prostrate by poor crop yields due to cold weather. To establish the development of agriculture and food by dairy farming in Hokkaido, Torizo Kurosawa founded Hokkaido Rakuno Gijuku in 1933 as an agricultural educational institute for farmers following the example of Denmark. Rakuno Gakuen University (**RGU**), the Faculty of Dairy Science and Department of Veterinary Medicine was established in 1964. The Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Medicine Master and Doctoral Courses were established in 1975 and 1981, respectively. The university now consists of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Sciences (three departments), the School of Veterinary Medicine (two departments), and two graduate schools (six doctoral and master's courses).

During the last full visitation to the School of Veterinary Medicine, RGU (**SVM-RGU**) on the 23rd to 27th of October 2023, the EAEVE Visitation identified deficiencies in some sub-standards as follows.

1. Two major deficiencies:
 - 1) **Standard 3.1.3**: Insufficient hands-on clinical training for all students in companion animals, including equine and exotic pets.
 - 2) **Standard 5.1**: An insufficient number of companion animal patients (including equine and exotic pets) in relation to the number of students enrolled.
2. Four minor deficiencies:
 - 1) **Standard 3.1.5**: Suboptimal Food Safety and Quality (**FSQ**) practical training in pigs and poultry for all students.
 - 2) **Standard 3.6**: Suboptimal evaluation of students during Elective Practical Training (**EPT**).
 - 3) **Standard 5.1**: Suboptimal number of necropsies of companion animals (excluding equine) and food-producing animals.
 - 4) **Standard 9.1**: Suboptimal training to teach and to assess for teaching staff involved in extramural clinical training.

In accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure (**SOP**), as approved at the Zagreb General Assembly, 30 May 2019, RGU has been fully committed to addressing the deficiencies highlighted by ECOVE.

SVM-RGU started to address the concerns in accordance with the ESEVT standards immediately upon notification. The Presidents, Dean and the School of Veterinary Medicine, Educational Reform Promotion Office (**vetERP office**) informed all faculty, staff, and students about the major deficiencies, which were discussed further during subsequent Faculty Council meetings. After the Full Visitation (**FV**), faculty members, administration staff, and members of the Student Association for Veterinary Education of RGU (**SAVER**) worked intensively on the deficiencies identified, and the results of improvements and work reforms are explained in this RSER. Since the last FV, all major and minor deficiencies have been analysed and rectified; therefore, we consider SVM-RGU to now be fully compliant with all EAEVE standards.

A full-page background image of a surgical team in an operating room. Five surgeons, all wearing blue scrubs, blue bouffant caps, and white surgical masks, are huddled over a patient. The patient is lying on a table, covered with a blue sterile drape. The surgeons are focused on the surgical site. Above them, several large, circular surgical lamps are illuminated, casting a bright light on the team and the patient. The background shows a typical operating room environment with green walls and medical equipment.

1.

Correction of Major Deficiencies

I. Correction of Major Deficiencies

1.1. Major Deficiency I: Standard 3.1.3.

The VEE is not compliant with Standard 3.1.3. because of insufficient hands-on clinical training for all students in companion animals, including equine and exotic pets.

1.1.1. Factual information

RGU conducted a reform of the education plan based on the suggestions by ESEVT experts at FV to service sufficient hands-on core clinical training (**CCT**) on companion animals, including equine and exotic pets, for all students. The main points of the educational reform plan are (1) securing clinical Full-Time Equivalent (**FTE**) faculty and staff, (2) hiring high experience practitioners (**HEP**) who specialise in hands-on CCT education, (3) improving the quality of clinical staff and interns (e.g., attending a residency programme), (4) increasing opportunities for students to participate in 24/7 clinical service, (5) improving equine medical education, (6) establishing an exotic medical department and hiring veterinarians with extensive experience of exotic animal medicine, and (7) securing equipment for use in hands-on training based on medium- and long-term plans.

The number of academic faculty and staff responsible for CCT, who work in the Animal Medical Center (**AMC**), increased from 27 in AY2020 to 44 in AY2023 (Table 1). The Executive Committee of Board of Trustees (**ECBT**) decided to recruit 6 HEP in order to increase the caseload. The veterinary medicine industry in Asian regions (including Japan) does not yet have a complete specialist education system, making it difficult to recruit clinical veterinarians with Diplomate qualifications. Therefore, RGU widely recruits human resources with HEP from May 2024, and aim to hire them in October, when the second semester starts. In AY2024, RGU has hired 8 HEPs and 4 temporary clinical assistants, and retired 1 academic faculty (image diagnostic), resulting in 55 clinical educational FTEs (Table 1). This is approximately twice the total number of clinical faculty and staff members in AY2020.

SVM-RGU has already hired two experienced food-producing animal veterinarians who retired from other clinical facilities in AY2023 as HEPs. Therefore, there are 10 HEPs in AY2024. HEP are in charge of CCT education in collaboration with FTE faculty and staff to ensure the quality of students' hands-on education. The clinical fields in which the 10 HEPs specialise in are shown in **Table 1**. With the hiring of six new permanent HEPs, the number of FTE faculty and staff in SVM-RGU will be 104.25 in AY2025, which is guaranteed to be maintained by ECBT.

To provide high-quality CCT education to all students, it is important to not only secure the number of faculty and staff, but also improve the quality of individual faculty and staff. Therefore, SVM-RGU actively encourages young faculty members, temporary assistants, and interns to participate in residency programmes that are now being prepared in Asian regions. Since the Asian College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (**AiCVIM**) began an Internal Medicine, Oncology, Neurology, and Cardiology residency programme in AY2024, AMC applied and was approved by **AiCVIM** as a specialised training veterinary diplomate programme facility.

Regarding the development of excellent clinical veterinarians, ultrasound diagnostic abilities and pathophysiological evaluations based on ultrasound diagnoses, which are

essential to modern veterinary medicine, are indispensable. To improve the efficiency of companion animal medicine and provide excellent ultrasound imaging education to students and interns, RGU will introduce the latest ultrasound imaging equipment to AMC by the summer of 2024. This ultrasound imaging equipment will also be used for the education of interns, clinical staff, and young faculty members.

AMC provides 24/7 education as CCT for the purpose of managing hospitalised animals, the ICU management of post-operative animals, assistance with night medical service and the reception of medical requests, and the hearing of clinical symptoms at night and on holidays (mainly by telephone reception for medical service requests). Since AY2022, all students have been participating in 24/7 work in AMC. However, AY2022 and AY2023 were operated on the 2015 curriculum; therefore, AMC was unable to provide a sufficient number of cases for each student. The original plan (2015 curriculum) was for each student to work one night and one holiday; however, once full-scale CCT goes into operation in AY2025 (the 2021 curriculum), all students will be required to work two nights and one holiday.

At AMC, the equine hospital became independent from the food-producing animal hospital facility in AY2023; however, inpatient and outpatient services were insufficient in AY2023 due to delays in the provision of operating tables and anaesthesia machines. In the AY2024 budget, ECBT approved the purchase of equipment, such as equine anaesthesia machines and operating tables, which are currently in the process of being purchased. To enrich hands-on equine education, it is necessary to provide education by a veterinarian who is an equine HEP, and RGU plans to publicly recruit an equine clinical veterinarian as an HEP in May AY2024 and hire her/him in October. RGU is confident that a state-of-the-art equine hospital that employs equine HEP and is fully equipped will attract additional customers and increase the caseload. An increasing number of outpatient and inpatient equine cases will help improve equine hands-on education.

SVM-RGU, in collaboration with the non-profit organisation Horse Trust Hokkaido (2.5 hours' drive from the RGU main campus), an elderly horse care facility, has incorporated a one-night, two-day hands-on equine medical training programme into the CCT programme for all students in AY2025 (2021 curriculum). Approximately 50% of students participate in this practical training trial in the 1st semester of AY2024. SVM-RGU and Horse Trust Hokkaido provide hands-on training in physical examinations and making a clinical record, vaccination programmes, gastrointestinal parasite inspection and extermination programmes, lameness diagnosis, electrocardiogram examinations, dental examinations and care for older horses raised in the surrounding area based at the lodging facility of Horse Trust Hokkaido. In full-scale CCT training starting in AY2025, only students who have completed hands-on training at Horse Trust Hokkaido will be permitted to participate in actual horse medical service (outpatient, inpatient, and house calls).

To provide students with the opportunity to participate in exotic animal medical service, AMC established the “Department of Exotic Animal Medicine” as a new clinical department, with service starting in April AY2024. SVM-RGU is now seeking HEP to provide medical treatment and clinical training for exotic animals in May AY2024 and is collaborating with private clinics that have a large number of exotic animal cases. The director of AMC requested the cooperation of the Japanese Society of Exotic

Animal Medicine (**JSEAM**) in managing the exotic animal clinic and recommending candidates for HEP. AMC maintains good relationships with private clinics that have a large number of exotic animal cases by providing diagnostic imaging services, such as computed tomography (**CT**) and magnetic resonance imaging (**MRI**), every Friday morning to the directors of these clinics.

RGU will continue to introduce new medical equipment based on medium- and long-term strategies (AY2020-AY2025) for students to acquire hands-on techniques on their own. In AY2024, AMC will introduce equine anaesthesia equipment, an operating table, and state-of-the-art ultrasound equipment that simultaneously records ultrasound images drawn by faculty members and their operating instructions. Additionally, ECBT has approved AMC to introduce the latest CT (Revolution Frontier, GE Healthcare Japan) in AY2024 in order to secure AMC medical customers and improve the level of medical care. AMC equipment scheduled to be introduced in AY2024 is listed in **Appendices A1**.

1.1.2. Comments

By increasing the number of clinical FTE and proactively recruiting HEP who are practitioner-based faculty members with extensive clinical experience, SVM-RGU will enhance hands-on education in CCT for all students. The well-equipped equine hospital and on-site hands-on training at Horse Trust Hokkaido is advantageous for students' day one competence (**D1C**) skills acquired in equine medicine.

A major improvement is that the Department of Exotic Animal Medicine, which opened in April 2024, provides students with the opportunity to participate in exotic animal medical education. RGU hired 6 permanent HEPs in AY2024 who are specialists in (1) Companion Animal Internal Medicine, (2) Companion Animal Soft Tissue Surgery, (3) Companion Animal Orthopaedics Surgery, (4) Exotic Animal Medicine, (5) Equine Medicine, and (6) Clinical Pathology (Companion Animal Pathology) and are in charge of CCT education for students. SVM-RGU have secured 10 faculty members who will provide practical clinical education, including four temporary HEPs from the food-producing animal and preventive medicine department, who were hired in AY2023 and AY2024; therefore, we will be able to provide appropriate hands-on clinical training to all students (**Table 1**).

Each clinical department needs to analyse the clinical activities that they would like to develop within their department. Strong activities with higher returns may help to support new activities that are considered essential or desirable for a modern state-of-the-art teaching hospital.

In the faculty personnel plan for veterinary medicine education (AY2020-AY2025) based on a medium- and long-term plan (**Plan**) within the framework approved by the ECBT (maintaining 104.25 FTE faculty and Staff) is seeking and hiring (**Do**). SVM-RGU maintain an optimal organization by evaluating QA committee (**Check**) and adjusting new medium- and long-term plans for SVM-RGU which will start AY2026 (**Adjust**). Especially since HEP is a new endeavor for RGU, the PDCA cycle for personnel planning must be carried out strictly.

Non-profit organisation Horse Trust Hokkaido
URL: <https://www.horse-trust-hokkaido.org>

1.2. Major Deficiency 2: Standard 5.1.

The VEE is not compliant with Standard 5.1. because of the insufficient number of companion animal patients (including equine and exotic pets) in relation to the number of students enrolled.

1.2.1. Factual information

The number of cases and necropsies of various animals per number of students graduating is below the minimal values of approved schools by ESEVT from AY2020 to AY2022 due to renovation work at AMC and its related facilities and the COVID-19 pandemic. Renovation work at AMC and its related facilities often required large-scale closure periods, making it difficult to secure a sufficient number of cases for small companion animals, such as dogs and cats. Regarding the number of cases and necropsies in AY2023, the number of necropsies of companion animals (excluding equine and exotic animals) was negative in the balance table proposed by the ESEVT indicator table; however, other indicators have become positive. The reason why the indicators became positive is that renovation work on AMC and its related facilities was completed by the end of fiscal AY2022, and the Japanese government eased movement restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2023. RGU has also hired new faculty and clinical staff to practice at AMC and its related facilities.

The number of FTE faculty and educational clinical staff has increased 1.63-fold from 27 in AY2020 to 44 in AY2023 (**Table 1**). In addition, as mentioned above, RGU hired 6 HEP, 2 temporary HEP and 4 temporary assistants in AY2024, increasing the number of FTE working in AMC and CCT education to 55 (retired 1 FTE). Therefore, the number of clinical staff in AY2025 will be approximately double that in AY2020, ensuring a sufficient number of cases and necropsies for students proposed by ESEVT. As a result, SVM-RGU's (including basic and preventive veterinary sciences) total FTE count stands at 104.25, which is guaranteed to be maintained by ECBT in the future.

The majority of Japanese individuals believe that “an animal’s soul resides in its body”; therefore, when a pet dies at AMC or a veterinary hospital near AMC, Japanese owners tend to be reluctant to provide the veterinary university with the opportunity to perform a necropsy. Therefore, the number of necropsies of dogs and cats per number of students graduating is below the minimal values of approved schools by ESEVT. Even though Japanese individuals know that it is not real, they also tend to believe that dolls have souls and, thus, are more hesitant to throw away their dolls than Westerners (**Appendices A2**). Therefore, since a compensative plan was needed to ensure a sufficient number of necropsies of dogs and cats, RGU and Naganuma town proposed and initiated the “Raccoon Project (**Appendices A3**)”. In the area surrounding RGU, crops are being seriously damaged by raccoons, which are designated by the Japanese government as exotic vermin. In April 2024, RGU reached an agreement for the “Raccoon Project” with Naganuma town, which is located approximately 30 minutes by car from the RGU main campus, to use raccoons, which are Carnivora similar to dogs, as an alternative to necropsies of dogs and cats (**Appendices A3**). Therefore, starting in 2024, Naganuma Town will provide RGU with the corpses of 200 raccoons exterminated as pests. The corpses provided are frozen at -70°C for at least three days before necropsy to prevent raccoon roundworm and echinococcus infections,

and students then perform necropsies supported by an academic pathologist and/or HEP pathologist. By sharing necropsy results, such as the findings of an evaluation of eating habits from a gastric content survey, with Naganuma town, RGU will also conduct community contribution projects with student participation. In other words, the “Raccoon Project” is not only a compensative plan to ensure a sufficient number of necropsies of dogs and cats, but also a good approach to provide biosecurity and community cooperation education to veterinary students. RGU conducted necropsies on 62 raccoons as a preliminary trial in AY2023 (**Appendices A4 and A5**).

1.2.2. Comments

The overall numbers of cases and necropsies in AMC and its related facilities meet the ESEVT indicators due to increases in FTE academic faculty and educational staff as clinical practitioners. In AY2024, RGU employed 6 permanent and 2 temporary HEPs, and 4 temporary assistants, increasing the number of FTE working in AMC to 55 (the number of clinical staff will approximately double from that AY2020); therefore, we consider indicators for cases and teachers per student to have markedly improved. We hope for a post-Covid surge of cases and are convinced that the renovated small animal, equine, and food-producing state-of-the-art animal hospital will attract more clients

Table I Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) faculty and staff providing clinical education at Core Clinical Training (CCT)

Academic faculty (permanent FTE)	AY2020	AY2023	AY2024
Internal medicine (CA)	3	5	5
Surgery (CA)	3	5	5
Anaesthesia (CA, LA, FA)	3	3	3
Image diagnosis (CA, LA, FA)	3	3	2
Clinical pathology (CA, LA, FA)	2	2	2
Equine medicine (LA)	1	2	2
Food producing animal medicine (FA)	7	8	8
Pathology (LA and FA necropsy)	2	2	2
High Experience Practitioner (permanent FTE)	AY2020	AY2023	AY2024
Internal medicine (CA)			1
Surgery (soft tissue surgery) (CA)			1
Surgery (orthopaedic surgery) (CA)			1
Exotic animals (CA)			1
Equine medicine (LA)			1
Companion animal pathology (CA and exotic)			1
High Experience Practitioner (temporary FTE)	AY2020	AY2023	AY2024
Food producing animal medicine (FA)		2	2
Preventive veterinary medicine			2
Academic assistant (temporary FTE)	AY2020	AY2023	AY2024
Internal medicine (CA)	1	3	3
Surgery (CA)		3	3
Anaesthesia (CA, LA, FA)	1	2	3
Clinical pathology (CA, LA, FA)		1	1
Equine medicine (LA)		2	2
Food producing animal medicine (FA)	1	0	2
Pathology (LA and FA necropsy)			1
Preventive Medicine		1	1
Total number	27	44	55

CA: Small Companion Animal, LA: Equine, FA: Food-Producing Animal

2.

Correction of Minor Deficiencies



2. Correction of Minor Deficiencies

2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: Standard 3.1.5.

The VEE is partially compliant with Standard 3.1.5. because of suboptimal FSQ practical training on pigs and poultry for all students.

2.1.1. Factual information

SVM-RGU fully recognises the role of veterinarians in the fields of meat inspection and food hygiene and is constantly considering the provision of adequate educational opportunities in these areas for all students. Since veterinary students eligible for the 2021 curriculum will undertake full-scale CCT from 2025, SVM-RGU plans to have all veterinary students begin D1C training at cattle and pig slaughterhouse inspection stations in 2025. A list of slaughterhouses contracted by SVM-RGU to accommodate students is shown in **Appendices B1**.

SVM-RGU has signed an agreement with a major Japanese electronics manufacturer (the NEC corporation) to develop virtual reality (VR) education tools for cattle related to meat inspection and introduced them into meat inspection education in AY2023. In AY2024, SVM-RGU has budgeted for the development of VR for pigs. In addition, to acquire and understand the skills as D1C of meat inspection for cows and pigs, SVM-RGU provides both pig thoracic and abdominal organs to all 5th year students in “Meat Hygiene Inspection Practical Training (off-campus), Slaughterhouse (1 credit)”, and simulated meat inspection training is conducted under the guidance of a HEP meat inspection veterinarian. A detail of the syllabus is provided in **Appendices B2**. In other words, all 5th year students will participate in the meat inspection of cows and pigs conducted on-site at a slaughterhouse, with VR as pre-learning (**Appendices B3**), and “both hands-on and e-learning organ inspection” as post-learning. In Japan, it is extremely difficult to send students to slaughterhouses for on-site training in poultry slaughterhouses due to biosecurity concerns, such as the prevention of infectious diseases. Therefore, as an alternative, SVM-RGU will provide all 2021 curriculum students with a mandatory “Poultry Inspection Practice (1 credit)” that simulates poultry inspection in the second semester in the 5th year. “Poultry inspection practice” consists of poultry anatomy, a pathological examination, microbiological examination, and lectures by two HEPs poultry inspection veterinarian, and details of the syllabus are provided in **Appendices B4**.

SVM-RGU also provides unique skills education in the field of food hygiene, giving all students the opportunity to learn and understand D1C as a food hygiene veterinarian. All 2021 curriculum students learn about dairy and meat processing and food hygiene in a lecture on “Livestock Product Utilisation” in the first semester of their 4th year. Furthermore, in mandatory practice on “Livestock Product Utilisation”, students learn about food hygiene while producing cheese and butter using milk and processing ham, sausage, and bacon using a pig and poultry meat, which is conducted at a specialty educational farm of RGU. All 5th year students gain knowledge and an understanding of food hygiene at the Sapporo Beer Eniwa Brewery, one of Japan’s leading HACCP-certified breweries. Details of the syllabus for lectures and practice on “Livestock product utilisation” are provided in **Appendices B5 and B6**, respectively.

2.1.2. Comments

The fields of meat inspection and food hygiene are important in veterinary education. It is difficult to provide sufficient hands-on training to all students because slaughterhouses and food processing plants have strict biosecurity measures that limit on-the-job training for outsiders. To provide all students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills related to food hygiene, SVM-RGU requires pre-learning using VR, practical training, and post-learning through hands-on training as compulsory subjects for all students.

2.1.3. Suggestions for improvement

It is important to secure a host organisation for slaughterhouse training, which will start full-scale operation from AY2025. A list of institutions currently approved to accept 136 students is provided in **Appendices B1**. In the future, SVM-RGU aims to acquire more acceptance.

2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: Standard 3.6.

The VEE is partially compliant with Standard 3.6. because of the suboptimal evaluation of students during EPT.

2.2.1. Factual information

To standardise student evaluations during EPT, RGU have built an education system that complies with the “General guidelines on the minimum training to teach and to assess for each category of teachers”, based on Annex 6: Template and guideline for the writing of the SER (page 72) in the ESEVT 2023 SOP. RGU requires EPT teachers and veterinarians to undergo training in accordance with the “General Guidelines for Minimum Training for Teaching and Assessment for Each Category of Teachers”. These educational contents consist of (1) Code of Conduct, (2) ESEVT D1C, (3) Good Clinical Practice, and (4) Practical and Clinical Teaching (Basic Course), all of which are managed through RGU’s e-learning system. All teachers and veterinarians in charge of the EPT programme must watch the entire content and take a quiz to check their proficiency. All viewing and exam records are managed by the e-learning’s logging system. By managing the logs, SVM-RGU’s Quality Assurance Committee strives to standardise student evaluations not only by EPT teachers and veterinarians, but also by all faculty and staff involved in veterinary education at SVM-RGU.

RGU e-learning system

URL: <https://eee2.rakuno.ac.jp/course/view.php?id=8892>

(Viewed only by authorized individuals)

2.2.2. Comments

Preparation for this educational content began in November 2023 and was completed by the end of March 2024. During the first semester (April to September) in AY2024, academic faculty and staff of the SVM-RGU will take the educational content in advance, identify any issues, and confirm the content. At the start of the second semester in AY2024 (September), RGU will provide education for teachers and veterinarians in charge of EPT.

2.2.3. Suggestions for improvement

RGU standardises the evaluation of students during their EPT and have a full agreement in place with EPT providers. RGU is setting up an e-learning education system for all teaching staff involved in extramural clinical training to receive full training to teach and assess. By the start of the second semester in September AY2024, these educational systems will be in operation, and it will be possible to standardise the education and evaluation of EPT teachers and veterinarians.

2.3. Minor Deficiency 3: Standard 5.1.

The VEE is partially compliant with Standard 5.1. because of the suboptimal number of necropsies of companion animals (excluding equine) and food-producing animals.

2.3.1. Factual information

Improvements in the number of necropsies of dogs and cats and food-producing animals are detailed in “1.2 Major deficiency 2: Standard 5.1”. Due to the beliefs of Japanese individuals, it is difficult to secure a sufficient number of dogs and cats for necropsy. As an alternative, RGU reached an agreement with Naganuma town to operate the “Raccoon Project” in AY2024. After AY2024, the corpses of 200 raccoons exterminated by Naganuma town are provided to students for hands-on necropsy training. The academic faculty in charge of companion animal necropsy education already introduced 62 raccoons in AY2023 to confirm applicability to CCT education.

The number of necropsies of food-producing animals in AY2023 met the number required for hands-on training by SVM-RGU students. However, to provide all students with more opportunities to perform necropsies of food-producing animals (cattle, pigs and small ruminants), SVM-RGU plans to install a large freezer and refrigerator rooms in the large animal pathology building. The budget for the installation of these rooms was adopted by ECBT in the AY2024 budget. Therefore, a freezing and refrigerator rooms are installed in the Pathology Building and become operational by July 2024.

2.3.2. Comments

Due to Japanese beliefs, it is difficult to secure a sufficient number of dogs and cats for necropsy; therefore, RGU initiated the “Raccoon Project” with Naganuma town. RGU considers this project to be a good compensative plan not only for dog and cat necropsy education, but also for biosecurity and community collaboration education.

2.3.3. Suggestions for improvement

The installation of freezer and refrigerator rooms has made it possible not only to conduct hands-on training in the necropsy of food-producing animals, but also meat inspection training using thoracic and abdominal organs after on-site training at a slaughterhouse. In the second semester of the 5th year, students in the 2021 curriculum will receive practical training on poultry inspection, which mainly consists of simulations of poultry inspections held on campus. These freezer and refrigerator facilities are extremely useful for all students to store poultry bodies for anatomy and necropsy.

2.4. Minor Deficiency 4: Standard 9.1.

The VEE is partially compliant with Standard 9.1. because of suboptimal training to teach and to assess for teaching staff involved in extramural clinical training.

2.4.1. Factual information

Monthly face-to-face Faculty Development (FD) has been conducted by SVM-RGU since 2019 (excluding long vacation periods), and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to improve the teaching and assessment skills of all FTE faculty and staff was started by the committee in charge in April 2024. The Quality Assurance committee in SVM-RGU has prepared structured e-learning education, which is managed using a log system. Not only FTE, but also EPT teachers and staff are required to take these courses.

As detailed in “2.2 Minor Deficiency 2”, SVM-RGU set up a new education system for all FTE faculty and staff as well as EPT teachers that complies with the “General Guidelines for Minimum Training for Teaching and Assessment for Each” recommended by “ESEVT 2023 SOP (72 pages)”. The concept and construction of an e-learning system with reference to the above guidelines began after it was pointed out in the FV in October 2023, and was completed by the end of March 2024. SVM-RGU starts operating the system on campus from April 2024 and intend to continually develop an educational programme for teachers and veterinarians who are in charge of off-campus training.

SVM-RGU hold regular (mainly once a month) FD meetings related to education and evaluation methods, and all academic faculty and staff in veterinary medicine departments are required to attend. All faculty and staff are also required to have a history of attending these educational programmes and FD; however, promotions for academic faculty and staff are determined based on the results of a fair review according to separately established strict promotion criteria described in RGU-2023-SER Standard 9.4 (Appendices B7).

2.4.2. Comments

SVM-RGU promotion criteria are strictly defined, and screening is conducted to avoid personal disadvantages to faculty and staff who wish to be promoted. The educational programme using the e-learning system introduced in April was built based on the latest ESEVT recommended “General Guidelines for Minimum Training for Teaching and Assessment for Each”. In addition, we adopted both face-to-face FD and e-learning educational programmes in consideration of clinical faculty who are busy with clinical work.

2.4.3. Suggestions for improvements

In addition to regular face-to-face FD, FTE faculty from the start of the first semester of 2024 (April) and EPT faculty from the second semester of 2024 (September) have been able to take CPD training using the e-learning education system newly constructed by the Quality Assurance committee.

3.

ESEVT Indicators



3. ESEVT Indicators

3.1. Factual information

Updated ESEVT Indicators based on the last three academic years (AY2021-AY2023) are shown in **Table 2**. SVM-RGU's ESEVT Indicators based on the single academic year (AY2023) for clinical and necropsy cases can be confirmed in the **Table 3**.

3.2. Comments

Some of the indicators (Indicator #01, #14, and #19) are still below the minimal values. Compared to ESEVT's reference values for the number of various cases per number of graduates, RGU is steadily turning the balance in a positive direction as a result of its solid improvement plan.

FTE teaching staff involved in veterinary training per number of undergraduate students (indicator #01) is below the minimal values of schools approved by ESEVT. Regarding the number of teachers relative to the total number of students in SVM-RGU, which is currently the largest issue, SVM-RGU proceeds with hiring new FTE faculty and staff according to a medium- and long-term plan that will reach a positive balance by AY2025. These recruitment plans were approved by the RGU's ECBT. As a result, SVM-RGU's (including basic and preventive veterinary sciences) total FTE count stands at 104.25, which is guaranteed to be maintained by ECBT in the future. SVM-RGU's FTE list has been summarized in **Appendices C1**. Details of the number of clinical and necropsy cases in AY2023 are shown in **Appendices C2 and C3**, respectively.

The number of companion animal necropsy cases per number of students graduating (Indicator 14) is below the minimal values of schools approved by ESEVT. Japanese individuals are generally reluctant to provide pets, such as dogs and cats, for necropsy education because they believe that their companion animal's bodies and even dolls have souls. Therefore, it is extremely difficult to secure a sufficient number of dogs and cats for necropsy to match the number of graduating students. As a plan to compensate for necropsy training on dogs and cats, SVM-RGU have reached an agreement with Naganuma town, located approximately 30 minutes by car from RGU's main campus, to provide SVM-RGU with 200 raccoons exterminated as pests. These raccoons will be used not only for necropsy education, but also for biosecurity and social cooperation education for all veterinary students. Therefore, SVM-RGU is planning to secure 100 necropsies on dogs and cats (cases from animal hospitals around AMC and RGU) and 200 on raccoons in AY2024.

The number of Ph.D. students graduating annually per number of students graduating (Indicator 19) is also below the minimal values of approved schools. The admission capacity of graduate students in the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, RGU (**GSVM-RGU**) approved by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is lower than the "minimum value for approved schools" recommended by ESEVT. Although it is difficult for SVM-RGU to increase its admission capacity and award doctoral degrees to meet this ESEVT indicator, GSVM-RGU has established a Research Assistant (**RA**) system and provides the opportunity to take a doctoral degree. GSVM-RGU is planning various improvements to the research environment and providing graduate students, RA, young faculty, and temporary teaching staff who do not have doctoral degrees with the opportunity to obtain a doctoral degree (**Appendices C4**).



3.3. Suggestions for improvement

In 2025, when 2021 curriculum students will take full-scale CCT, indicators for FTE teaching staff involved in veterinary training and the number of companion animal necropsy cases per number of students graduating will become positive.

Table 2 ESEVT Indicator based on the last three academic years (AY2021-AY2023)

ESEVT Indicators



Name of the VEE:		School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University				
Name & mail of the VEE's Head		Prof. Yasukazu MURAMATSU, DVM., PhD.				
Date of the form filling:		29-Apr-24				
Raw data from the last 3 complete academic years						
		AY2021	AY2022	AY2023	Mean	
1	n° of FTE teaching staff involved in veterinary training	65.5	76.0	83	74.83	
2	n° of undergraduate students	870	846	826	847.33	
3	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training	55.75	66.25	74.25	65.42	
4	n° of students graduating annually	142	137	125	134.7	
5	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training	90	90	90	90.00	
6	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	765	765	765	765	
7	n° of hours of Core Clinical Training (CCT)	900	900	900	900	
8	n° of hours of VPH (including FSQ) training	225	225	225	225	
9	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in VPH (including FSQ)	45	45	45	45	
10	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally	3578	3454	6206	4412.7	
11	n° of individual ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally	53	20	44	39	
12	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally	9	2	1	4.0	
13	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic patients seen intra-murally	0	70	115	61.7	
14	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally	0	210	274	161.3	
15	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally	1077	1223	3495	1931.7	
16	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally	39	621	648	436.0	
17	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic patients seen extra-murally	0	6	145	50.3	
18	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds	122	141	165	142.7	
19	n° of visits to poultry and farmed rabbit units	0	16	22	12.7	
20	n° of companion animal necropsies	2	15	101	39.3	
21	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies	83	62	124	89.7	
22	n° of equine necropsies	204	177	183	188.0	
23	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies	52	58	159	89.7	
24	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training	11	11	11	11.0	
25	n° of PhD graduating annually	8	8	8	8.0	
The boxes within the red frames must be filled in by the VEE (the other values will be automatically calculated)						

ESEVT Indicators



Name of the VEE:		School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University				
Date of the form filling:		29-Apr-24				
Calculated Indicators from raw data						
			VEE values	Median values ¹	Minimal values ²	Balance ³
I1	n° of FTE teaching staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate students		0.088	0.15	0.13	-0.038
I2	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually		0.486	0.84	0.63	-0.144
I3	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually		0.668	0.88	0.54	0.128
I4	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training		765.000	953.50	700.59	64.410
I5	n° of hours of Core Clinical Training (CCT)		900.000	941.58	704.80	195.200
I6	n° of hours of VPH (including FSQ) training		225.000	293.50	191.80	33.200
I7	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in VPH (including FSQ)		45.000	75.00	31.80	13.200
I8	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually		33.965	67.37	44.01	-10.045
I9	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually		14.634	18.75	9.74	4.894
I10	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually		2.012	5.96	2.15	1.117
I11	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually		0.832	3.11	1.16	-0.328
I12	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually		1.059	1.29	0.54	0.519
I13	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually		0.094	0.11	0.04	0.049
I14	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually		0.292	2.11	1.40	-1.108
I15	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually		0.666	1.36	0.90	-0.234
I16	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually		1.396	0.18	0.10	1.296
I17	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually		0.666	2.65	0.88	-0.214
I18	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually		0.082	0.27	0.06	0.022
I19	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually		0.059	0.15	0.07	-0.011
1	Median values defined by data from VEEs with Accreditation/Approval status in May 2019					
2	Recommended minimal values calculated as the 20th percentile of data from VEEs with Accreditation/Approval status in May 2019					
3	A negative balance indicates that the Indicator is below the recommended minimal value					
*	Indicators used only for statistical purpose					

Table 3 ESEVT Indicator based on the last single academic year (AY2023)

CI ESEVT Indicator for single year AY2023



ESEVT Indicators

Name of the VEE:		School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University				
Name & mail of the VEE's Head		Prof. Yasukazu MURAMATSU, DVM., PhD.				
Date of the form filling:		29-Apr-24				
Raw data from the last 3 complete academic years		AY2023	AY2024	AY2025	Mean	
1	n° of FTE teaching staff involved in veterinary training	83.0	96.25	104.25	94.50	
2	n° of undergraduate students	826	816	816	819.33	
3	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training	74.25	85.5	93.5	84.42	
4	n° of students graduating annually	127	129	125	127.0	
5	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training	90	90	90	90	
6	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	765	765	765	765	
7	n° of hours of Core Clinical Training (CCT)	900	900	900	900	
8	n° of hours of VPH (including FSQ) training	225	225	225	225	
9	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in VPH (including FSQ)	45	45	45	45	
10	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally	6206			6206.0	
11	n° of individual ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally	44			44	
12	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally	1			1.0	
13	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic patients seen intra-murally	115			115.0	
14	n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally	274			274.0	
15	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally	3495			3495.0	
16	n° of equine patients seen extra-murally	648			648.0	
17	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic patients seen extra-murally	145			145.0	
18	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds	165			165.0	
19	n° of visits to poultry and farmed rabbit units	22			22.0	
20	n° of companion animal necropsies	101			101.0	
21	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies	124			124.0	
22	n° of equine necropsies	183			183.0	
23	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies	159			159.0	
24	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training	11			11.0	
25	n° of PhD graduating annually	8			8.0	
The boxes within the red frames must be filled in by the VEE (the other values will be automatically calculated)						



ESEVT Indicators

Name of the VEE:		School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University				
Date of the form filling:		29-Apr-24				
Calculated Indicators from raw data						
			VEE values	Median values ¹	Minimal values ²	Balance ³
I1	n° of FTE teaching staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate students		0.115	0.15	0.13	-0.011
I2	n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually		0.665	0.84	0.63	0.035
I3	n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually		0.709	0.88	0.54	0.169
I4	n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training		765.000	953.50	700.59	64.410
I5	n° of hours of Core Clinical Training (CCT)		900.000	941.58	704.80	195.200
I6	n° of hours of VPH (including FSQ) training		225.000	293.50	191.80	33.200
I7	n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in VPH (including FSQ)		45.000	75.00	31.80	13.200
I8	n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually		51.024	67.37	44.01	7.014
I9	n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually		27.866	18.75	9.74	18.126
I10	n° of equine patients seen intra-murally and extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually		5.110	5.96	2.15	2.960
I11	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally and extra-murally/ n° of students graduating annually		2.047	3.11	1.16	0.887
I12	n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually		1.299	1.29	0.54	0.759
I13	n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually		0.173	0.11	0.04	0.129
I14	n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually		0.795	2.11	1.40	-0.605
I15	n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually		0.976	1.36	0.90	0.076
I16	n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually		1.441	0.18	0.10	1.341
I17	n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually		1.252	2.65	0.88	0.372
I18	n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually		0.087	0.27	0.06	0.027
I19	n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually		0.063	0.15	0.07	-0.007
1	Median values defined by data from VEEs with Accreditation/Approval status in May 2019					
2	Recommended minimal values calculated as the 20th percentile of data from VEEs with Accreditation/Approval status in May 2019					
3	A negative balance indicates that the Indicator is below the recommended minimal value					
*	Indicators used only for statistical purpose					

Glossary

AiCVIM:	The Asian College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
AMC:	Animal Medical Center
CCT:	Core Clinical Training
CPD:	Continuing Professional Development
CT:	Computed Tomography
D1C:	Day One Competences
EAEVE:	European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education
ECBT:	The Executive Committee of Board of Trustees
EPT:	Elective Practical Training
ESEVT:	European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training
FSQ:	Food Safety and Quality
FTE:	Full-Time Equivalent
FV:	Full Visitation
GSVM-RGU:	Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, RGU
HEP:	High Experience Practitioners
JSEAM:	Japanese Society of Exotic Animal Medicine
MRI:	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
QA:	Quality Assurance
RA:	Research Assistant
RSER:	Re-visitation Self-Evaluation Report
RGU:	Rakuno Gakuen University
SAVER:	Student Association for Veterinary Education of RGU
SER:	Self Evaluation Report
SOP:	Standard Operating Procedure
SVM-RGU:	The School of Veterinary Medicine, RGU
vetERP office:	The School of Veterinary Medicine, Educational Reform Promotion Office
VEE:	Veterinary Education Establishment
VR:	Virtual Reality

List of Appendices

A1	List of equipment scheduled to be introduced at Animal Medical Center (AMC) in AY2024
A2	A survey on the attitudes of Japanese and Americans regarding the necropsy of companion animals
A3	Raccoon Project: Regarding conclusion of comprehensive partnership agreement with Naganuma Town
A4	Comprehensive partnership agreement between Incorporated Educational Institution Rakuno Gakuen and Naganuma Town
A5	Companion necropsy hands-on training using a replacement for a raccoon that has been exterminated
B1	A list of meat inspection centres (slaughterhouses) contracted by the School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University (SVM-RGU) to accommodate students
B2	Syllabus for “Meat hygiene inspection training (off-campus)/Slaughterhouse (1 credit)” in the 2021 curriculum
B3	System configuration of the NEC-RGU meat inspection VR simulator
B4	Syllabus for “Poultry Inspection Practice (1 credit)” in the 2021 curriculum
B5	Syllabus for lectures on “Livestock product utilisation (1 credit)” in the 2021 curriculum
B6	Syllabus for practice on “Livestock product utilisation (1 credit)” in the 2021 curriculum
B7	The programmes devoted to academic and support staff for the appraisal and promotion procedures
C1	Allocation plan for faculty and educational staff in the School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University (SVM-RGU) in the medium- and long-term plan from AY2020 to AY2025
C2	Actual number of clinical cases for clinical education in AY2023
C3	Actual number of farm visits and necropsy cases for clinical education in AY2023
C4	Annual plan for the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine in AY2024