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FVE Working group on Development of a Model Curriculum for Animal Welfare in Veterinary Undergraduate Education

Terms of reference

Background

Animal-welfare education is a multi-disciplinary subject rapidly evolving component of the veterinary curriculum. Different veterinary schools may cover different elements of the subject and teach it in many different ways. Although the curriculum is under continual pressure, the drivers (policy makers, student expectations, and trade requirements) for including animal welfare in the course are likely to increase. Some core components of an animal-welfare course are important to include in all veterinary curricula. This would include an appreciation of the differences between welfare science, ethics (veterinary, animal, biomedical, environmental, etc) and standards/laws.

In view of the ongoing scientific developments and societal expectations in this field, FVE wishes to establish an ad hoc working group to develop a draft model curriculum for Animal Welfare teaching in Veterinary Education.

Composition of the Working Group

The Working Group will be composed of maximum 8 experts. Experts could include 2 representatives of FVE, 2 of EAEVE, 1/2 of AWARE¹, 1 European decision maker, EBVS College on Animal Welfare, etc.

Nominations for subject experts will be sought in particular from veterinary associations, from academia and from departments of veterinary science and animal science. A balance in term of geographical origin and working field will be ensured.

The FVE Board will appoint a Chair of the group, who will be responsible with the support of the FVE Secretariat for leading the discussions and for making progress reports and a final report to the Board of Directors of both FVE, EAEVE as to the AWARE project.

¹ AWARE: EU project to promote integration and increase the impact of European research on farm animal welfare.

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Tasks

TASK 1/ to map animal welfare science, law and ethics teaching in undergraduate education.

The mapping will be done in the first place by an online survey. AWARE researchers will support with collecting and analyzing the survey responses. If deemed necessary, the survey can be supplemented by additional surveys, interviews, etc.

TASK 2/ to draft a model animal welfare curriculum for undergraduate veterinary education taking into account the current teaching in European veterinary faculties, considering the core teaching subjects and possible ways of implementing it into the curriculum.

The draft curriculum has to be written in a way that it is useful as supplement to the EU Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC) and as reference for the EAEVE/FVE evaluation system.

The working group has to ensure a broad consultation of all interested stakeholders (e.g. via electronic consultation).

The final model animal welfare curriculum should be adopted by the FVE Board and EAEVE ExCom.

Secretarial support

Secretarial support (organizing meetings and teleconferences, writing minutes, circulating documents, etc) will be provided by the FVE secretariat (Mrs N. De Briyne). The AWARE project team will support the Chair and Secretariat with distributing the mapping survey and the collection & analyses of the answers received.

Time frame

The mapping (TASK 1) should be ready summer 2012 and the model curriculum (TASK 2) to be ready by summer 2013. The working group should develop a strategy with different actions and milestones. The Chair should ensure the FVE and EAEVE Boards to receive six-monthly updates on the reaching of the different milestones.

Costs

It is foreseen that the working group will have maximum 2 physical meetings in Brussels per year. As much as possible, communication will be done via electronic means such as via e-mail and/or teleconferences.

Costs for secretariat work, meeting room, refreshments will be covered by FVE. The travel and accommodation costs of experts will be covered by their respective organisations.

The Board may decide to invite the chair of the Working Group to attend other meetings, such as a meeting of the Board or the General Assemble to present the paper. Costs associated with such visits will also be borne by FVE.

Estimated budget for FVE 2012: 3.000 Euro

Estimated budget for FVE 2013: 5.000 Euro

The Working Group will be ended after the adoption of the model curriculum on animal welfare.
