ECCVT Press-release

VetCEE:
Raising the quality of veterinary care in Europe through high-level life-long training.

The veterinary profession has taken a huge step forward in ensuring the quality of continuing education programmes in Europe. With the establishment of VetCEE (Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe), veterinarians have paved the way for the harmonization of European standards for post-graduate professional development programmes, aimed at the improvement of veterinary care.

While minimum standards already exist at veterinary graduate and specialist level, there is a lack of European standards for the so-called intermediate or middle-tier level for veterinary practitioners wishing to improve their clinical skills.

VetCEE was created with the aim to validate the quality of these middle-tier programmes. It will agree on minimum standards, and accredit programmes – both new and existing – that meet these standards. It will also promote mutual recognition of such programmes throughout Europe.

Christophe Buhot, president of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), commented: “It is expected that VetCEE will raise the quality and transparency of post-graduate training programmes, to the ultimate benefit of animals and their owners.”

Andrew Robinson, president of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP), comments “that VetCEE approved courses, leading to a ‘middle-tier’ level, will enable practitioners to plan their future development within the profession in a far more structured manner.”

Laszlo Fodor, president of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), emphasised that “by creating VetCEE, the quality assurance system of veterinary training in Europe has been completed. Veterinary medicine is the only profession where a Europe-wide profession specific evaluation is system is in function at all levels of training.”

Stephen May, president of the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) in welcoming the news said: “A number of European countries recognise advanced levels of veterinary expertise, some at Specialist level, some at the intermediate level, and some countries are starting to recognise both. In the interests of the public and the profession, EBVS welcomes clarification of these two levels with the creation of VetCEE.”

Standards for study programmes for companion animal medicine have already been set and will soon be followed by those for porcine and laboratory animal medicine. Providers of such programmes will soon be able to apply for accreditation.
VetCEE is an independent organisation, and was officially established on 26 March when the presidents of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation, the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education and the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners, signed the Statutes.

- VetCEE was set up by the European Coordination Committee for Veterinary Training (ECCVT) in conjunction with UEVP; and with the help of the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) in establishing the companion animal standards.
- The establishment of VetCEE will be confirmed by publication in the Official Journal of Belgium in the next couple of months.
- For further information, please contact the secretariat of the ECCVT.