

## ANNEX IV

### LIST OF RECOMMENDED ESSENTIAL COMPETENCES AT GRADUATION: “DAY-ONE SKILLS”

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The quality of veterinary training is achieved by the concerted action of a series of steps during learning by the students. Very often quality of learning (and, indirectly, of teaching) is translated into the concept of the competence of the graduate, e.g. the graduate is sufficiently qualified to properly perform the tasks associated to the degree awarded by the educating Faculty. This concept is clearly embraced by the Directive 2005/36/EC when establishing the requirements for knowledge and skills to “enable veterinary surgeons to perform all their duties (Annex V: Veterinary surgeon, 5.4.2.)”. The Directive is also very clear in establishing (Article 38, point 3) that the “Training as a veterinary surgeon **shall provide an assurance** that the person in question has acquired the following knowledge and skills”.

The essential competences have been broken down into three main areas; they are:

- **A General professional skills and attributes**  
describing the distinguishing characteristics of a veterinary surgeon.
- **B Underpinning knowledge and understanding**  
describing in general terms the breadth of knowledge and understanding needed for a career as a veterinary surgeon, and for subsequent professional development in whatever sphere of veterinary science the individual wishes to pursue
- **C Practically-based veterinary competences**  
describing the basic practical competences that are expected A) at the point of graduation, and B) following an extended period of further professional training in practice.

#### 2 DAY-ONE SKILLS

##### 2.1 GENERAL PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

*The new veterinary graduate should be able to:*

- 2.1.1 Communicate effectively with clients, the lay public, professional colleagues and responsible authorities; listen effectively and respond sympathetically to them, using language in a form appropriate to the audience and the context
- 2.1.2 Prepare clear case reports and maintain patient records in a form satisfactory to colleagues and understandable by the public
- 2.1.3 Work effectively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team
- 2.1.4 Be aware of the ethical responsibilities of the veterinary surgeon in relation to individual animal care and client relations, and also more generally in the community in relation to their possible impact on the environment and society as a whole

- 2.1.5 Be aware of the economic and emotional climate in which the veterinary surgeon operates, and respond appropriately to the influence of such pressures
- 2.1.6 Be willing to use one's professional capabilities to contribute as far as possible to the advancement of veterinary knowledge in order to benefit veterinary practice and further improve the quality of animal care, animal welfare, and veterinary public health (evidence based medicine).
- 2.1.7 Have an elementary knowledge of the organisation and management of a veterinary practice, including:
- awareness of own and employer's responsibilities in relation to employment and health
  - and safety legislation, and the position relating to lay staff and public liability
  - awareness of how fees are calculated and invoices drawn up, and the importance of following the practice's systems for record keeping and book-keeping, including
  - computer records and case reports
  - ability to use information technology effectively to communicate, share, collect, manipulate and analyse information
  - importance of complying with professional standards and policies of the practice
- 2.1.8 Understand the need and professional obligation for a commitment to continuing education and training, and professional development, throughout one's professional life
- 2.1.9 Act in a professional manner with regard to the veterinary surgeon's professional and legal responsibilities and understand and apply the ethical codes of the appropriate regulatory bodies.
- 2.1.10 Be able to cope with uncertainty and adapt to change
- 2.1.11 Be aware of personal limitations, and demonstrate awareness of when and from where to seek professional advice, assistance and support.
- 2.1.12 Have a basic knowledge of the veterinary service

## **2.2 UNDERPINNING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

*The new veterinary graduate will need to have acquired a thorough knowledge and understanding of the following:*

- 2.2.1 The sciences on which the activities of veterinary surgeons are based
- 2.2.2 Research methods and the contribution of basic and applied research to all aspects of veterinary science
- 2.2.3 How to evaluate evidence
- 2.2.4 The structure and functions of healthy animals and their husbandry
- 2.2.5 The aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical signs, diagnosis and treatment of the common diseases and disorders that occur in the common domestic species in the EU

- 2.2.6 Legislation relating to the welfare (including transport) of animals and notifiable diseases
- 2.2.7 Medicines legislation and guidelines on responsible use of medicines as applied in the member states.
- 2.2.8 The principles of disease prevention and the promotion of health and welfare
- 2.2.9 Veterinary public health issues including zoonoses.

### **2.3 PRACTICAL COMPETENCES**

*The new veterinary graduate should be able to undertake the following:*

- 2.3.1 Obtain an accurate and relevant history of the individual animal or animal group, and its/their environment
- 2.3.2 Handle and restrain an animal safely and humanely, and instruct others in performing these Techniques
- 2.3.3 Perform a complete clinical examination
- 2.3.4 Attend all common domestic animal species in an emergency and perform basic first aid (Commentary: problems to be handled for any species include first aid management of haemorrhage, wounds, breathing difficulties, eye & ear injuries, unconsciousness, clinical deterioration, burns, tissue damage, internal organ damage and cardiac arrest. First aid to be applied includes bandaging, cleaning, immobilising limbs, resuscitation procedures, haemorrhage control.)
- 2.3.5 Assess correctly the nutritional status of an animal and be able to advise the client on principles of husbandry and feeding
- 2.3.6 Collect, preserve and transport samples, perform standard laboratory tests, and interpret the results of those generated in-house, as well as those generated by other laboratories
- 2.3.7 Use radiographic, ultrasonic, and other technical equipment which can be used as a diagnostic aid, safely and in accordance with current regulations
- 2.3.8 Follow correct procedures after diagnosing notifiable, reportable and zoonotic diseases
- 2.3.9 Carry out Certification correctly
- 2.3.10 Access the appropriate sources of data on licensed medicines; prescribe and dispense medicines correctly and responsibly in accordance with relevant legislation and ensure that medicines and waste are safely stored and/or disposed of
- 2.3.11 Correctly apply principles of sterilisation of surgical equipment
- 2.3.12 Correctly apply principles of aseptic surgery
- 2.3.13 Safely perform sedation, general and regional anaesthesia, and assess and control pain
- 2.3.14 Advise on, and administer appropriate treatment

- 2.3.15 Recognise when euthanasia is necessary and perform it humanely, using an appropriate method, whilst showing sensitivity to the feelings of owners and others, and with due regard to the safety of those present; advise on disposal of the carcase
- 2.3.16 Perform a basic gross post mortem examination, record details, sample tissues, store and transport them
- 2.3.17 Perform ante and post mortem inspection of food animals and correctly identify conditions affecting the quality and safety of products of animal origin
- 2.3.18 Assess and implement basic health and welfare records (and production records where appropriate)
- 2.3.19 Advise on, and design of preventive and prophylactic programmes appropriate to the species (herd health management) and commensurate with accepted animal health, welfare and public health standards, seeking advice and assistance where necessary from professional colleagues
- 2.3.20 Minimise the risks of contamination, cross infection and accumulation of pathogens in the veterinary premises and in the field.