

# Addendum

## REVISITATION SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

Facultad de Veterinaria de Las Palmas

UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS PALMAS DE  
GRAN CANARIA

**1-3 july 2021**

This new addendum has been created taking as a reference the Addendum R-SER, submitted past January (that contributions were marked in red). Now, new contributions and data for 2021 are marked in **blue**

ExCom on 29 October 2020  
33rd EAEVE GA on 3 December 2020



# 1. CORRECTION OF THE MAJOR DEFICIENCIES

## 1.1. Major Deficiency 1: non-compliance with Substandard 4.13, because of non-functional isolation facilities for large animals

### 1.1.1. Factual information

The construction of the isolation facilities for large animals, pending at the time of the visitation, has been completed. The large animals' isolation facilities were modified in order to be adapted to the treatment of large animals with suspicion, or with the diagnosis, of infectious diseases. Particularly, the equine isolation unit has been modified in order to incorporate a previous clothe changing room, forced negative ventilation system and a modification of the drainage system to improve the waste contention.

The isolation facilities for ruminants and porcine, located in the first basement floor at the HCV-ULPGC have been rebuilt to improve the design in order to accomplish with the highest standards for infectious diseases isolation and contention managements. Also, in the first basement floor at the HCV-ULPGC main building, a new isolation unit for bovines has been constructed and is now under use.

Moreover, both isolation units have been modified in order to incorporate a previous clothe changing room and a forced negative ventilation system. All the isolation facilities are in use and the authorized personnel has been trained for the best standards of managing infectious or suspicion of infectious diseases in the different species. **Regarding this, it's been established that each year training sessions about the handling of infectious animals or animals suspected of infectious diseases are to be held. These sessions will be given by qualified staff. In fact, on February 2021, a training session was developed for all the HCV-ULPGC personnel.**

### 1.1.2. Comments

During 2018 and 2019 the administrative rules for financing the construction of facilities changed in Spain resulting in a slow-down and complex process. As a consequence, the initial scheduled for the modification of the large animals' isolation facilities was not completed and facilities were not ready before the previous ESEVT visitation. The ULPGC Veterinary Faculty agreed with the report of the visiting team and the decision of ECOVE in relation with the major deficiency of non-functional of the large animal isolation facilities at that moment. However, in the opinion of the Faculty, this major deficiency has now been corrected.

Although it is not related to the major deficiency in the large animals' isolation unit, the small animal isolation facility has been modified in order to complete the recommendation



included in the final report 2019 (4.2). Particularly, the access of contagious patients in the VTH has been completely separated from the general examination rooms. Therefore, there is not any potential risk of transmission related to the access to the small animal isolation unit. Also, this modification has permitted to include a separate space for previous clothe changing as mentioned in the report.



## 1.2. Major Deficiency 2: non-compliance with Substandard 5.2, because of insufficient medical and surgical cases in the equine species.

### 1.2.1. Factual information

The limited caseload of equine patients at the HCV-ULPGC is primarily motivated by the low equine census in Canary Islands. According to Zoocan (link), the official number of equidae in Canary Islands is 5,503 at the moment of writing this RSER. The updated data of 2020 shows a similar projection (Table 1)

Table 1. Number of dogs, cats and equidae registered in ZOOCAN

	Dogs	Cats	Equidae
Gran Canaria	203984	19816	2398
La Palma	35493	1716	188
Lanzarote	42975	7631	252
Fuerteventura	44892	5531	290
Tenerife	247537	27384	2323
La Gomera	5613	626	25
Hierro	3909	138	72
Total	584403	62842	5548

Almost half of this population (43.22%, 2398 animals) is located in Gran Canaria Island where the Faculty is settled. Table 2 shows the number of registered clinical cases (gestorvet database) during 2019 and 2020, both intramural and extramural.

Tabla 2. Medical and surgical cases during 2019-2020 in equine specie

	Total cases	Intramural	Extramural	Medical cases	Surgical cases
2019	796	10	786	765	31
2020	720	12	708	688	32

When analyzing the table, we must take into account the following aspects:

- Most of the clinical activity in the equine species takes place outside the Veterinary Faculty, as reflected in the more than 700 cases attended during 2020. Intramural activity is limited to the performance of surgical interventions mainly.
- During 2020, between March 15 and June 15, consequential to the COVID pandemic, health authorities established a number of measures that produced mobility restrictions as well as restrictions in clinical activity in equine species. Despite this, extramural visits only decreased



9%, while intramural clinical activity remained practically unchanged. Therefore, it seems logical to assume that the mobility restrictions plus the health situation have limited projections in the number of clinical cases in equine species, both intramural and extramural, as well as a higher number of surgeries. Thus, we estimate that if the health situation had not prevented it, the number of animals treated intramurally would have surpassed 20-25 cases, while the number of surgeries could have reached a number between 40 and 50.

Although the caseload is limited by the real equine census, the ULPGC Veterinary Faculty has completed different actions in order to increase the intramural equine activity

- Meeting with all the private equine practitioners in Gran Canaria in order to increase the cooperation and promotion of the services and facilities. After this meeting several clinical activities have been completed intramural. Particularly, a practical course of Equine Anaesthesiology was completed June 20th, 2019 at the VTH hosted by Ecuphar®. The majority of the equine clinicians working in Gran Canaria attended to this life-long learning activity.
- A new equine veterinary practitioner (Alexis Ruiz) has been hired by the HCV-ULPGC. Since September 2019 and two days per week, 3 students attend the equine clinical activity extramurally. Therefore, the clinical equine training has been increased in 8 hours/student and at least 83 equine visits completed by Alexis have been recorded in our database since that date to the time of the writing of this RSER. In addition, Alexis Ruiz has recorded 97 equine visits during 2020 and 17 equine visits during the first 3 months of 2021. Therefore, the equine clinical activity and the learning opportunities for our students have been increased.
- Also, the ULPGC has signed an agreement with an ACVS Diplomate in Large Animal Surgery in order to provide the HCV with an external advisor and an equine surgeon (link to José Leandro Mendez-Angulo ACVS website, and link to Equinuvi). At least every 2 months a programmed practical training is completed in our facilities to promote the service and increase the learning activity for our students. During 2020, this Diplomate has come to our Hospital on 4 occasions, performing a total of 10 surgical interventions and given a training course in Equine Traumatology. Between January and March 2021, the Diplomate came 1 time at the HCV, performed 2 surgical interventions and gave a training course in Equine Rehabilitation.
- Horse Breeding Exhibition of the Armed Forces (150 years). From 9-18 October 2019 we have the honour of hosting the exhibition developed by the Ministry of Defence in the Hall of the Faculty. Also, on October 16th, a Seminar on Horse Breeding was hold in Classroom 6A (5th Year classroom).
- Recently, another new part-time assistant professor for the equine clinical training has been incorporated. Therefore, a total of 5 clinical practitioners are devoted to the equine clinical training at the ULPGC.



- In the first quarter of 2021, the HCV will hire a new veterinarian with exclusive dedication to equine medicine. In the present time, this new veterinarian works at the HCV.

### **1.2. Comments**

Despite the limited Equine Census, the number of equines attended in the farms has been increased during the last months. There is a sketch project for the modification of the horse clinic. A modification of the horse training arena has been proposed in order to increase the number of boxes for horse hospitalization. A new equine lameness examination arena will be built annex to this area (See ANNEX I). Therefore, the intramural activity could be increased.

If the health situation normalizes during 2021, we are sure that the number of horses cared intramurally will increase significantly as a result of the improvements made in the last two years.



## 2. CORRECTION OF THE MINOR DEFICIENCIES

### 2.1. Minor Deficiency 1: partial compliance with Substandard 3.5, because the duration of the equine clinical rotations is not optimal to enable all students to acquire their necessary D1C

The faculty has adopted the opinion of the experts to substantially increase the opportunity for clinical hands on learning, particularly in the clinics for horses. In order to address this issue the number of hours has been increased. During the last years the hours for clinical training have been increased. Only hours related to clinical practical training are included in the table:

Total hours in equine clinical training in the Veterinary Curriculum at the ULPGC were

Subject-Code-name Clinician	Year 2015-2016	Year 2016-2017	Year 2017-2018	Year 2018-2019	Year 2019-2020	Year 2020-2021
42520-Propedeutic (3th year)	3 h.	3 h	3.5	3.5	4	3.5
42538-Internal Medicine I (5th year) Francisco Doreste/Luigi Díaz Bertrana	5 h.	4 h	8	8	8	8.5
42538-Internal Medicine I (5th year) Pablo Almódovar						4
42539. Reproduction I and Obstetrics (5th). Jesús Forga						4
42542. 42539. Reproduction II and Obstetrics (5th). Jesús Forga						4
42540-Clinical Training (5th year) Jesús Forga					8	4
42540-Clinical Training (5th year) Francisco Doreste-Lidia Pitti	5 h.				4	
42540-Clinical Training (5th year) Pablo Almódovar						4
42547-Large Animal Rotatory Clinics (5th year). Jesús Forga				16	12	9
42547-Large Animal Rotatory Clinics (5th year). Francisco Doreste-Lidia Pitti	10 h			3.5		
42547-Large Animal Rotatory Clinics (5th year). Luigi Díaz Bertrana			14	8	4	3
42547-Large Animal Rotatory Clinics (5th year).Pablo Almodovar						20
42543-External Practical Training & Ambulatory Clinics (obligatory). Alexis Ruiz					10	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23 h</b>	<b>7 h*</b>	<b>25.5h</b>	<b>39 h</b>	<b>50 h</b>	<b>74h</b>



### 2.1.2. Comments

Sadly, the decease of the historical responsible of the Equine Clinical Service (Prof. Doreste) occurred in April 2016 resulted in a temporary reduction of the activity that could not be corrected immediately. During the following years, the equine clinician's team has increased the activity in order to improve the clinical training of our student in this specie.

In 2018-2019 a new part-time assistant professor for the equine clinical training was incorporated to the Department of Animal Pathology, Animal Production and Food Science and Technology. In 2019-2020 a new part-time practitioner for the equine clinical training was hired by the Veterinary Teaching Hospital exclusively for the Ambulatory Clinics. **At the beginning of 2020**, another new part-time assistant professor for the equine clinical training has been incorporated. Therefore, there is a total of 5 members of the academic staff devoted to the Equine Clinic.

In summary, the clinical experience for our students has been increased from 25.5 hours/student (2017-2018) **to 74 hours/student (2020-2021)**.

Finally, the activity completed by the American Diplomate every 2 months has increased the clinical activity for surgery, not only in those sporadic periods, but also during the rest of the year. In this regard, during 2020, this American Diplomate has directly performed a total of 10 surgeries in our Hospital and during 2021 we estimate that the number of surgeries that can be performed may double.

### 2.1.3. Suggestions of improvement

**At the beginning of 2020** a new position has been implemented for Large Animals Clinics in the Department of Animal Pathology, Animal Production and Food Science and Technology. **This new member of the academic staff will be responsible for teaching activities in the swine and bovine species.**

The Faculty is compromised with the increasing of the clinical activity in Large Animals (particularly Equine) and the Vice-Rectorate for Academic Affairs is informed of this commitment. **On February 2021, two full-time professors have been hired for Large Animals Clinics with markedly surgical profiles: equine surgery and bovine surgery, respectively.**

Also, there is a project for building more boxes. The construction of these facilities will increase the intramural activity with a proper promotion of this kind of clinical services.





## **2.2. Minor Deficiency 2: partial compliance with Substandard 4.3, because of sub-optimal equipment in some units of the VTH;**

### **2.2.1. Factual information**

Several clinical equipment has been recommended by the visiting team in the Final Report Las Palmas 2019, for including in the next purchasing procedure such as a fluoroscope, ICU equipment for small and big dogs.

At the end of 2019, fluoroscope has been included in the purchasing procedure with the support of the Research Institute of Biomedicine of the ULPGC (IUIBS) (See ANNEX II). Therefore, during the second semester 2020 this equipment could be used for traumatology and neurology.

At the time of the previous visitation, the ophthalmology consultation room (Nº 5) could not be darkened adequately to complete a scotopic ophthalmological examination. The examination rooms for ophthalmology and dermatology (Nº 5), cardiology and reproduction (Nº 4) and internal medicine (Nº 3) have been adapted to provide darkness adequate for the clinical examination, including ultrasound and ophthalmology examination.

In order to provide a better assistance to the patients in the ICU, new cages have been incorporated to the hospitalization units. One large ICU cage for large dogs has been incorporated to the ICU unit. Taking advantage of the rebuilding of the isolation area, a new septic theatre has been built in the VTH after the previous visit. This septic theatre has been completely equipped for clinical use (**Laouvet operating table, Primaled operating light, Multiparametric anesthesia monitoring ETCO2 Vetmat, Braun bipolar electrosurgical unit**).

Related to the surgical equipment's for large animals, and particularly for surgery purposes, the American Diplomate for Equine Surgery advisor has made a proposal for the purchase of the necessary surgical equipment.

### **2.2.2. Comments**

As mentioned above, and based on the recommendation made by the visiting team, the ULPGC has purchased the needed equipment. Particularly, one large dogs cage for ICU and surgical equipment. Also, the consultations have been adapted to provide adequate darkness for the clinical examination. Therefore, the HCV-ULPGC has improved the clinical assistance in order to provide the best quality of teaching-learning process for our students.



In addition, related to some equipment (i.e. fluoroscope, ultrasound equipment for horses), the ULPGC has initiated the procedure for the purchase of the equipment as soon as possible and following the legal procedure for purchase in the Spanish public administration (See ANNEX II).

During 2020, equipment has been acquired in different units of the HCV. The main equipment acquired is as follows:

<b>Small Animals Equipment</b>	<b>Equine equipment</b>
Mindray vetus 7 Ultrasound Machine with Cardiology Probe and Linear Probe	Edan AX3 Equine Ultrasound Machine with 3 Probes
General Electric OEC Brivo 580 Surgical Bow Fluoroscope	4Direct Flat Panel Detector FXRD Equine Portable Rx Equipment
MeX + 20 Plus dental Rx equipment	Ecomak kit motorized dental file
Pneumatic saw TPLO 67382 DVM	
2 Small intensive cages Vetarios	
Large cage for hospitalization of dogs	
Large cage for intensive care hospitalization	
Equipment for ophthalmology and dermatology examination	

### **2.2.3. Suggestions of improvement**

There is a sketch project for modification of the treating-room which is attached to the main dog hospitalization area. In this area a completely renew of the dog cages will permit an attend in the near future.



**2.3. Minor Deficiency 3: partial compliance with Substandard 4.7, because of sub-optimal good pharmacy practices, inconsistent colour coding of restricted access areas, sub-optimal procedures in dog and cat isolation unit, and sub-optimal separation of anatomical and pathological materials;**

**2.3.1. Factual information**

*Good Pharmacy practices*

An electronic security lock has been incorporated to the door of the VTH Pharmacy. Therefore, the access to the Pharmacy is limited to authorized personnel by using his/her ID electronic card. Moreover, inside of the Pharmacy room an electronic security locker has been incorporated in order to keep under restrictive authorization conditions the access to controlled drugs, such as methadone, morphine, phenobarbital, pentobarbitone, etc. The procedure for the drug stock control has been revised in order to guarantee a more precise use of every drug. Particularly, the dose of every patient must be written in every clinical record, therefore there is a double check for the drug consumption: output from the Pharmacy (1) and the use in every patient provided in every clinical record (2).

Also, another electronic security lock (drug cabinet) has been incorporated to the pre-surgery room. Therefore, the quantity of daily anaesthetic drugs needed is controlled at any moment, and the access to these drugs is limited to the personal responsible for the anaesthesia every day.

All the electronic security locks are controlled by the ULPGC security system. Thus, there is a register of every access and this is a traceable procedure.

*Color-coding of the restricted areas*

The color-coding in the isolation areas, surgery rooms and research laboratories has been revised.

The RED colour has been reserved for the isolation areas with more restrictive conditions for access. In RED areas, exclusively authorized personnel with specific training is permitted and electronic locks have been incorporated.

The YELLOW colour has been reserved for the surgery rooms, but also for the research laboratories in order to remind users the need of meeting biosafety standards. The warning and instructions for restricted areas and biosecurity measures have been published and properly translated into English.



#### *Procedures in dog and cat isolation unit*

A modification of the facilities for small animals' isolation unit has been completed. Nowadays, the access to this isolation unit is independent from the one of normal patients. Also, an electronic security lock has been incorporated to the access' door to this unit. Only properly trained personnel is authorized to access this unit using his/her ID card. The facilities have been modified to include an area for previous changing into protective clothing.

#### *Separation of anatomical and pathological materials*

In order to prevent any biosecurity issues in the anatomy and pathology buildings, a strict separation of the pathways and storage has been completed. A partition wall has been built to separate the anatomy and pathology sharing freezer. Also, the rules of use of the outdoor freezer have been modified in order to prevent sharing material by Anatomy and Pathology.

### **2.3.2 Comments**

Electronic security lock has been incorporated to the HCV-ULPGC Pharmacy. The access to the Pharmacy is limited to authorized personnel. Furthermore, inside of the Pharmacy, a second electronic security locker has been incorporated to keep under restrictive authorization condition the access to controlled drugs. A drug cabinet has been incorporated to the pre-surgery room. The procedure to control the drugs has been completely revised.

A remodelling of the small animal isolation unit has been completed. Nowadays, a complete separation of infectious -or suspicion infected- patients from the "normal" patients is guaranteed.

A partition wall has been built to separate the areas for Pathology and Anatomy in relation with the shared freezer that were used in the past. Therefore, there is a complete separation of the frozen storage material of these two units.

Also, the procedure for storage of cadavers has been modified in order to reduce the number of stored carcasses. Particularly, it is remarkable that the number of requests for the freezer emptying has increased. This activity is performed by officially approved or registered companies in accordance with the European Regulation for the handling and transportation of animal byproducts not intended for human consumption (ABP's or SANDACH in Spanish).

### **2.3.3. Suggestions of improvement**

There is a proposal for a modification of the Module 5 to enlarge the anatomy labs. This proposal requires the relocation of the Food Science and Technology Plant which is annexed to this building and with an independent access. With this modification a new freezer could be built in order to increase the capacity of the freezer and expand the periods between freezer emptying.



## **2.4. Minor Deficiency 4: partial compliance with Substandard 4.8, because of sub-optimal provision of an equine emergency service;**

### **2.4.1. Factual information**

The equine emergency service is provided in first instance by the VTH interns which are 24/7 attendings all kind of patients. When an equine patient is presented at the VTH and the presence of the equine clinician team is needed, the on-call specialist is immediately informed and drives to the VTH in less than 15 minutes. Nowadays a total of 5 equine practitioners are available for the VTH Equine clinical services. Therefore, the clinical assistances for equine emergency situations is provided.

### **2.4.2. Commets**

The limited caseload of the equine clinical training is motivated by (1) the decrease in the number of horses in the Gran Canaria Island census, mostly due to the economic crisis and developed in the previous years to the visitation period (1406 in 2014; 1414 in 2015, 1343 in 2016, 1343 in 2016, 1238 in 2018, **1161** in 2019, **1152** in 2020) \*; but also the decrease was motivated by (2) one of the most important equine practitioners in our region and member of our Academic staff passed away in April 2016.

As a result of the fact of the decrease in the equine population and that sad event; the number of equine emergency cases is not enough to provide with specialists in the different equine clinical areas, such as, surgeon, internal medicine, anaesthesia or diagnostic imaging as we would like to provide. Instead of that, our VTH veterinary interns (24 hours on-site) are trained to attend the basic equine patient care and are supported by the 5 veterinary specialists which are on-call if more specific patient care is need. The members of the Equine Medicine and Surgery team provides the emergency service with the active participation of the student which are at the VTH all year round (at least two students are on-site in emergency rotation every night and during weekends for all the species). Although there is a limitation in the emergency caseload, in our opinion, the equine emergency service is provided properly for the demanding service and matching with our student training. Moreover, and related to the QAS, no complaint has been received from our clients in relation with the provided service.

\* *Source: Canary Island Government Statistical Office (ISTAC).*

### **2.4.2. Suggestions of improvement**

The implementation of more boxes for hospitalization of equines as projected could increase the intramural activity in this specie. In that case, the substantiation to hire a team exclusively for equines (2-3 interns) and not shared with small animals and other species, could be completed.



## **2.5. Minor Deficiency 5: partial compliance with Substandard 5.1, because of sub-optimal numbers of healthy animals for propedeutics;**

### **2.5.1. Factual information**

The visiting team informed that the Faculty farm does not offer space for equids and sufficient number of cows. No facilities for healthy small animals are provided.

The Faculty Farm is not designed for the allocation of equines. Therefore, they cannot be kept in these facilities. Instead of that, the healthy horses are kept in the VTH boxes.

The scheduled learning activities on healthy horses are limited to the basic clinical examination training. This activity is completed in Propedeutic in the 3rd year for 3-4 weeks every year. Moreover, the training of the equine clinical examination is completed by the students within the daily based clinical activity, which is mostly extramural.

Otherwise, the clinical training on reproduction duties is completed in the external farms by the clinicians (extramural). Therefore, there is not any regular scheduled learning activity on healthy horses for reproduction at the Faculty (intramural).

Also, during many years the dogs used for the scheduled learning activities were provided by the annexed Animal Shelter for any clinical service, but not-limited to Propedeutics. During 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 a limitation for the use of the dogs from the Animal Shelter was established by a change of internal policy the Animal Shelter. Dogs owned by the students or teachers have been occasionally used to solve the mentioned problem occurred in those years. A change in the Animal Shelter's Government bodies has happened. Currently, since 2019-2020, the provision of healthy small animals for clinical training is assured.

### **2.5.2. Comments**

In the past, in order to provide the scheduled propedeutical training on horses, the equine clinical service at the VTH has provided with horses for this purpose. A horse is transported from a private owner to the Faculty and is kept for several weeks at the VTH. After finishing the practical training, the horse is returned to the owner. This activity has been completed for years, and it is the Faculty opinion, that it is a good example of commitment to animal welfare, and also it is a good example of efficient management because the cost of the maintenance of this horse is limited to several weeks a year. Also, motivated by the sub-optimal facilities for long-term accommodation of health equines, the Faculty has decided not to own a horse until the new facilities were completed. The project is attached and will be completed as soon as possible.



During 2019, the purchase of an equine palpation/colic simulator provided by Veterinary Simulator Industries ® (Canada) was approved by the Faculty and the ULPGC. In this moment, the acquisition of this new equipment is under the ULPGC's Purchasing Department (ANNEX III). Therefore, the clinical training on equine could be improved in the next year (2021).

Moreover, in the opinion of the Faculty, to keep dogs at the facilities of the Faculty for this purpose is not a good example of commitment with animal welfare. Our Faculty has the chance of the use of dogs from the neighbour Animal Shelter. Therefore, to keep dogs under long-term accommodation is not justified according to the principle of the 3Rs.

In the case of non-provision of small animals from the shelter, new facilities for keep small animals has been built.

In mid-2020, the Faculty owned two cows which were used for clinical training in different subjects (Obstetric and Reproduction, Propedeutic, Large Animal Rotatory Clinics, Clinical Training). These activities were extramurally complemented by the clinical activity.

### **2.5.3. Suggestions of improvement**

The implementation of a new hospitalization area with adequate facilities to keep horses during all year round will permit to keep one or two horses at the Faculty all year round and with the best animal welfare standards.

During 2019 a kennel has been built to keep dogs at the Faculty. A volunteer program with the students and personnel could be implemented for these dogs in order to warrant the best animal welfare standards of these animals and to avoid periods of loneliness in these dogs, especially during weekends and holidays.

The number of clinical training based on models and simulators will reduce the need of animals for this purpose. The purchase of simulators for ruminants and small animals clinical training will be completed in the next years.

Finally, there is a project to improve the farm of our faculty. Adapting suitable boxes to house between 4 and 6 cows. We consider this number of cows optimal for the fulfillment of a higher number of intramural practices. Likewise, this change of the farm also includes the transformation of some boxes to house an ample number of pigs that could be used for clinical training.



## **2.6. Minor Deficiency 6: partial compliance with Substandard 9.2, because of sub-optimal numbers of specialists in the VTH and of support staff for practical and clinical teaching.**

### **2.6.1. Factual information**

In relation to professional qualifications, which were also mentioned in the previous EAEVE report, the ULPGC in their commitment to this recommendation, can report that the following European Specialities (EBVS) have been awarded the corresponding Diploma (8): Wildlife Population Health (2), Pathology (2), Parasitology (2), Herpetology (1), and Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (1).

Also, the ULPGC, and particularly related to specialists in the VTH, has 9 Spanish national accreditation specialists (AVEPA) in the following areas: Cardiology (1), Dermatology (1), Internal Medicine (2), Neurology (1), Ophthalmology (2) and Traumatology & Orthopaedics (1).

In relation to the equine clinic, as previously mentioned, there is not enough caseload to hire the highest specialized academic staff during all year round. Therefore, an agreement has been signed with an ACVS Diplomate–Large Animal Surgery in order to provide cyclical temporary assistance to the programmed equine clinical service and an on-call service for programmed surgery assistance.

*A new part-time specialist in diagnostic imaging was hired in June 2020. This specialist is in the last phase of the training process to become Diplomate of European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging, possibly before the second semester of 2021.*

### **2.6.2. Comments**

Regarding to the suggestion of the inclusion of more specialist in the last report the Academic Staff members participating in the VTH has not changed since 2009. As a consequence, new positions have not been created and the opportunity to introduce diplomate veterinarians in those areas has not been possible yet.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is committed to increase the number of members of European or American Specialities Colleges in our Academic Staff. This is particularly relevant, but not exclusively, in the clinical veterinary activity in order to provide the highest standardized specialized practitioners for our educational program. For this purpose, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has included the possession of this kind of Diploma in the new ULPGC rating scales for the selection of the Academic Staff as a further merit for the





recruitment of candidates (not previously included). The process for the renewal of the veterinary clinicians of the VTH and academic staff requires long period to be completed.

### **2.6.3. Suggestions of improvement**

~~A new part-time specialist in diagnostic imaging was approved in the VTH Executive Committee at the end of 2019. This position will be completed in the first semester 2020.~~

Also, as a consequence of the changes related to the approval of the Regulation of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (HCV-ULPGC) mentioned in the Introduction, a new veterinarian was hired in August 2019 for strengthen the clinical service, particularly during afternoons and weekends. Therefore, there has been an increasing of the clinical activity in the VTH since September 2019. The number of dogs and cats attended has increased: 4030 in 2019, 2740 in 2018, 2500 in 2017, 2337 in 2016 and 1787 in 2015 (data referred only from September to December in those years). Therefore, the incomes are increasing and there is an opportunity to create during 2020 two new positions of Support Staff and two more veterinarians to improve the clinical services, which has been proposed for Anaesthesiology and Emergency Medicine at the VTH. **In fact, during 2020 a veterinary specialist in Anesthesiology was hired and has been responsible of the monitoring of anesthesia in all the surgeries performed at the VTH.**