



Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

**International Accreditation
& global health**

**Freda Andrews
Head of Education, RCVS**

Background to the RCVS

- RCVS's statutory remit concerns the registration of members practising in the UK, standards of education, and professional conduct
- 23,311 Members; 3,000 overseas
- Looking after health of
 - 1,622,000 dairy cows
 - 1,403,000 beef cows
 - 14,902,000 breeding sheep
 - 8,000,000 dogs
 - 8,000,000 cats
 - 1,000,000 horses*
- Routes to Membership:
 - Holders of degrees approved by RCVS
 - For EU citizens, a European qualification listed in the EU Directive 2005/36/EC
 - Statutory Membership Exam for graduates with non-approved overseas degrees

* Various sources: Defra, Pet Food Manufacturers Association 2009, HBLB 2002.



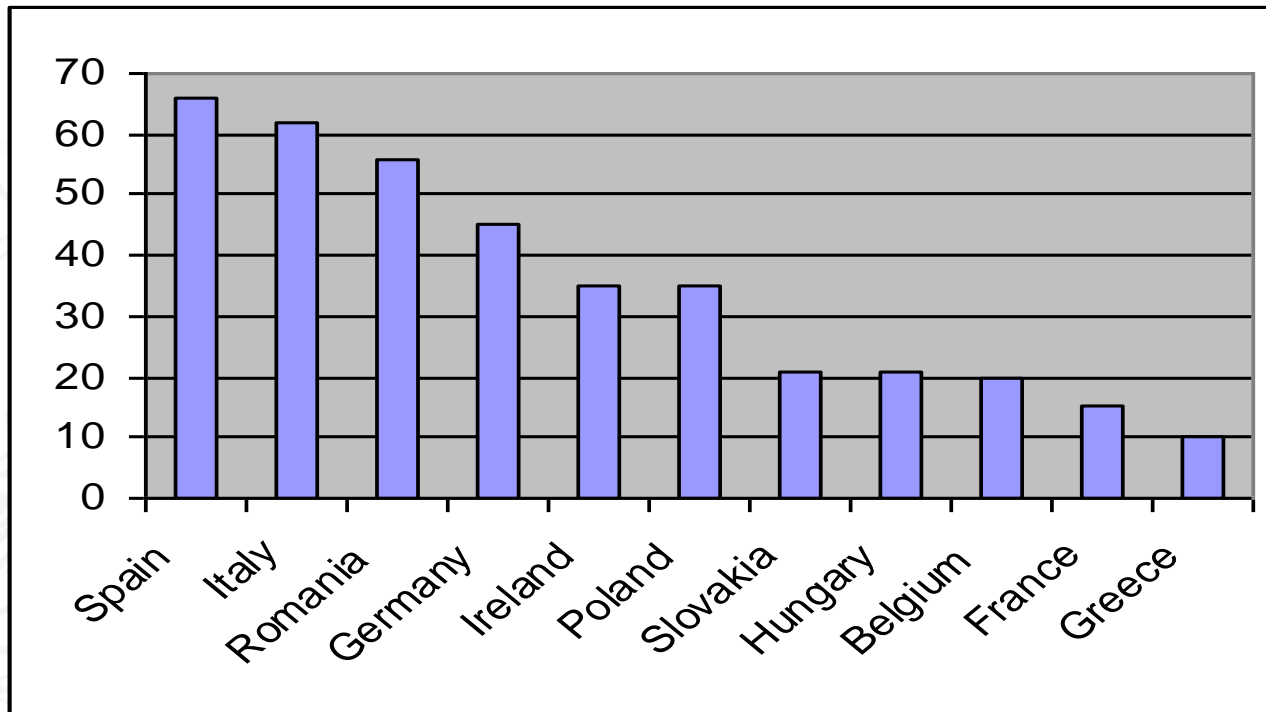
European Union

- Europe-wide evaluation (inspection) system for veterinary schools
- Unique amongst the “sectoral professions” covered by EU Directive 2005/36
- EAEVE undertakes evaluation visits and publishes list of approved & non approved vet schools
- EAEVE is working towards ENQA accreditation
- RCVS has adopted the EAEVE evaluation criteria in full and runs joint RCVS/EAEVE visits in the UK
- EAEVE’s latest criteria include RCVS’s “Day One Competences” in their entirety
- Sharing of ‘visitors’/experts on panels – EAEVE nominates 2 visitors to each RCVS visit team



Problems:

- Under Directive 36, we are obliged to register EU vet graduates, even if they graduated from a school we know to be deficient
- Around 400 – 500 EU vets register with RCVS each year
- Of 74 EU veterinary schools – only 42 EAEVE approved



Source: No. of vets registered with RCVS in 2008 from each country, taken from RCVS Annual Report 2009



Advantages:

- Because of the EAEVE evaluation system, at least we know which are the good/poor vet schools!
- Employers can choose who they employ based on information about the school
- Evaluation system gradually raising standards across Europe by voluntary participation
- Lobby EC to accept concept of European evaluation/accreditation system



South Africa

- Long standing mutual recognition of degrees – but no formal contract
- South African Veterinary Council has adopted RCVS/EAEVE criteria for evaluating its veterinary degree
- RCVS observer attends SAVC inspection visits
- Around 30 – 60 South African graduates register with RCVS each year

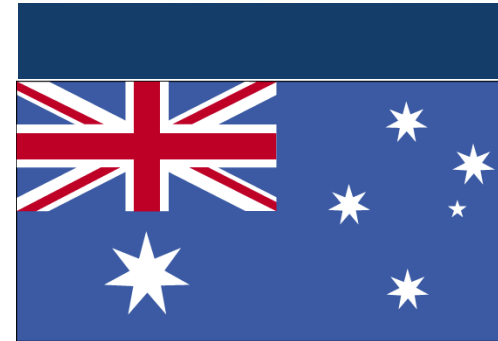
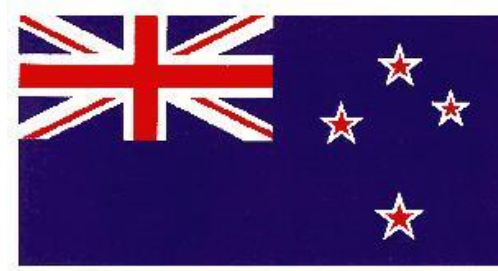


Australia & New Zealand

- Australasian Veterinary Boards Council coordinates accreditation & registration in Australia & NZ
- Formal agreement with RCVS - mutual recognition of accreditation systems since 2000
- Exchange of Observers on visits
- Share reports on visits
- Each body has authority to reach its own conclusion on the report – not tied to decision of the ‘home’ authority – allows for national variation if required

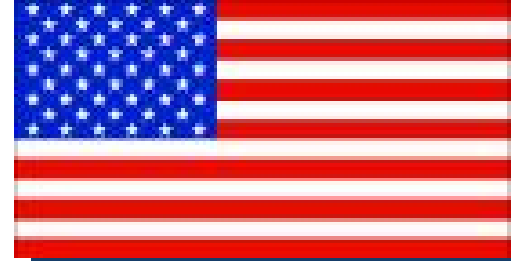
Why it works:

- Common agreement on standards - different language used but same meaning
- Sharing of information/draft policy papers – good contact between ‘experts’ and at admin level



North America - AVMA

- 50 US state boards + 10 Canadian provinces responsible for vet registration
- American Veterinary Medical Association – an accrediting body but not a registration authority
- RCVS-AVMA agreement since 2000
- RCVS registers individual graduates if
 - They hold AVMA accredited degree and ...
 - Have acceptable passing scores for the North American national licensing exam and ...
 - RCVS has received & approved relevant AVMA visit report
 - In case of doubt, may call for applicant's transcript and further information about curriculum to ensure degree covers EU minimum standards



Progress towards global standards

- Pilot joint accreditation visit to Murdoch University, W.Australia – September 2009
- Avoid need for multiple inspection visits by different authorities
- AVMA, RCVS, AVBC + observers from S.Africa & EAEVE
- Used combined documentation for SER
- Joint Chairs – AVBC + AVMA
- Combined Report to be considered by each authority independently



International accreditation - Lessons learnt?

- Takes time to develop mutual trust
- First “global accreditation” discussions held 2002
- Need to have shared accreditation standards
- Understanding of each party’s systems/history
- Agree on priorities – be prepared to compromise (eg on format of visit, style of report)
- Allow time to negotiate details between authorities
- Important to select the right people for the visit
- Politics may hinder future joint visits but must still work to maintain shared standards



One world – one health – one medicine

- First ever genuinely international conference on veterinary education – 500 veterinary deans in Paris, October 2009
- Aiming to establish minimum ‘day one competences’ for veterinarians world-wide
- Why is this important?
 - Emphasis on public health – disease management
 - 1415 identified pathogenic diseases of man
 - c 61% zoonotic (transferable from animals to man)
 - 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic – climate change, rising population, environmental encroachment
 - Global Early Warning System for disease
 - Need to increase food production by 70% by 2050
 - Many developing countries have minimal registration/qualification standards for vets
- **International collaboration needed at all levels**

Oie

World Organisation
for Animal Health



RCVS

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

www.rcvs.org.uk

Further information

www.rcvs.org.uk

Freda Andrews

Head of Education

f.andrews@rcvs.org.uk

