ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY

With the organisational changes at the university (September 1st, 2007) the main emphasis was placed on reorganisation of the clinical workplaces founded on the type of approach, because an essential part of instruction at veterinary schools is also on clinical learning. Also for this reason, five clinics were organised at the university according to the types of animals: a clinic for small animals, a clinic for horses, a clinic for ruminants, a clinic for swine and a clinic for birds and exotic animals. The new organisational structure should support not only improved educational and scientific research work in the framework of the individual target species or groups of animals but also create more suitable conditions for the provision of complete preventive-therapeutic processes for the owners and breeders of animals. Better conditions were created for drawing on financial resources from the structural funds of the European Union for reconstruction, or construction and refurbishing of clinics and other university workplaces. The change in the organisational structure led to the acceptance of new teaching plans, the changeover to a credit system of study and a species approach in clinical instruction. Responding to the need for the building of a new study programme in pharmacy, a change in organisational structure was approved in April 2010 which brought the other reorganised departments and institutes into their present form:

- **departments**
  - department of general education subjects (institute of languages, institute of physical education and sport),
  - department of biology and genetics (institute of biology, zoology and radiobiology, institute of genetics),
  - department of chemistry, biochemistry and biophysics (institute of pharmaceutical chemistry, institute of medical chemistry, institute of biochemistry, institute of biophysics and biomathematics),
  - department of anatomy, histology and physiology (institute of anatomy, institute of histology and embryology, institute of physiology),
  - department of nutrition, dietetics and animal breeding (institute of nutrition, dietetics and feed production, institute of animal breeding, institute for breeding and diseases of animals and fishes),
  - department of microbiology and immunology (institute of microbiology and gnotobiology with laboratory of gnotobiology, institute of immunology with laboratory of biomedical microbiology and immunology),
  - department of pathological anatomy and pathological physiology (institute of pathological anatomy, institute of pathological physiology),
  - department of drug and pharmaceutical technology,
  - department of pharmacology and toxicology (institute of pharmacology, institute of toxicology),
  - department of epizootiology and parasitology (institute of epizootiology and preventive veterinary medicine, institute of parasitology),
• department of the environment, veterinary legislation and economy (institute of hygiene of animals and the environment, institute of forensic and public veterinary medicine and economy),
• department of hygiene and food industry technology (institute of hygiene and technology of meat with a laboratory for the isolation and study of food pathogens, institute of hygiene and dairy technology).
- clinics
  • small animals clinic (division of internal diseases, division of surgery, orthopaedia, radiology and reproduction, laboratory of the clinical biochemistry and hematology),
  • clinic for horses,
  • clinic for ruminants,
  • clinic for swine,
  • clinic for birds and exotic animals.

SPECIAL FACILITIES
A great plus for the university, namely from the viewpoint of education in scientific research, is its special facilities, in particular its School Agricultural Enterprise, n. g. o., in Zemplínska Teplica; the Special Facility for Breeding and Diseases of Animals, Fish and Bees in Rozhanovce; and the Equestrian grounds at UVMP. With the practical teaching in these facilities students have not only the opportunity to confirm the theoretical knowledge they have gained, but also to master the basics of practical skills when working with animals. And thanks to these facilities our graduates have for many years applied themselves not only on the national, but also on the European or worldwide labour market, and our university is an attractive school for the mobility of students from veterinary schools throughout all of Europe.

School Agricultural Enterprise in Zemplínska Teplica
The School Agricultural Enterprise is located in Zemplínska Teplica, perhaps 35 km southeast of Košice. Not only does it deal with the successful cultivation of agriculture crops and the breeding of farm animals, but to a significant measure it has a part in ensuring practical instruction for students, creating the conditions for scientific research activities and providing farm animals and feeds for the needs of the university’s clinical workplaces. It is this particular opportunity for immediate diagnostic and medical contact with animals on its own farm that puts the university at the forefront of European veterinary universities. The extensive reconstruction of accommodation, instructional and social facilities, including computing technology, has turned this agricultural enterprise into a modern, purposeful facility, where students can perform daylong or week-long practice that fulfill the most exacting criteria.

The Special Facility for Breeding and Diseases of Animals, Fish and Bees in Rozhanovce
This facility offers space for pedagogical and scientific research activities with a focus on aspects of breeding and the diseases of free-range animals and fishes as well as for the practical part of instruction for hunting and hunting with dogs. The pressures of civilisation on the landscape have caused a very sharp decline in animals, particularly small animals. This in
particular applies to animals like partridges, pheasants and hares. It would be in the interest of society as a whole to stop this trend towards depleted animal populations and to create the conditions for free ranging animals. The starting point for preserving the gene fund of endangered species and again returning them to nature is the artificial breeding of pheasants, partridges and wild hares which are the primary scope of the activities at this special facility. The facility has in particular long years of experience with farm-raised pheasant, of which it produces about 30–35,000 each year, and for which it has obtained a good reputation both at home and abroad. An independent part of the special facility is its hunting woods, which cover an area of 6,158 hectares, and where the university has leased the right to perform hunting activities.

Hunting grounds serve for the needs of the educational process, additional restocking and are a maintenance system for commercial hunting and the sale of live animals. The facility also includes an operational and rehabilitation station for protected animal species which serves for temporary placement of protected species of freely living animals from our natural surroundings, their examination, rehabilitation and subsequent release back to nature. A holding centre serves for the temporary housing of exotic birds illegally imported to Slovakia or illegal kept in the country.

**Equestrian grounds of the UVMP in Košice**

The equestrian grounds create a space for pedagogical, sport and commercial activities. Practice for students takes place here in a number of disciplines, for example, internal diseases of horses, gynaecology and obstetrics and the exercise and rehabilitation of horses. Preventive therapeutic processes on university horses and horses of private owners take place here as well as the shoeing of horses. One of the charitable and socially beneficial activities is also hippotherapy for mentally and physically handicapped children operated through the civic association Elbrus – a club for the health disabled. A commercial activity is the stabling and care of private horses, the provision of riding hours on horses in the framework of a riding school or the provision of rides in horsedrawn carriages. Sporting activities take place through the Equestrian department of TJ Slávia UVMP, where aside from employees and university students, also residents of Košice and its surroundings are registered, primarily children and young people. Vaulting riders in particular have achieved notable results on the international level and also organise the Slovak Cup or the Slovak championships in equestrian vaulting. The Hubert rides and races, which take place in the jumping grounds, also has a firm place in the sporting calendar. In May a competition takes place for the Rector’s Prize and in October the Košice Cup, which is organised not only for active competitors but also amateur and hobby riders.

The equestrian season ends with a traditional Hubert ride. The winner of the “fox hunt” – which today means a rider with a fox tail attached to his or her shoulder – is the rider who is the first to grab hold of this tail. The Hubert ride is governed by regulations which are overseen by the master. According to these regulations, for example, *chase only a fox and not women or birds, and a rider who has lost his or her horse does not have to jump the barriers. All riders, alive and dead, three hours after sunset shall be responsible before the last judgment for sin against these regulations, for which the rider is punished, not the horse...*
A significant strategic step for the development of this special facility and equestrian sport in Košice was the signing of an agreement on cooperation between the UVMP in Košice and the Presidium of the Slovak Police Force. On 4 September 2008 a division of horseback police of the department of cynology and hippology of the Presidium of the Slovak Police Force was ceremonially opened at the Equestrian grounds. During the opening of still the only the second such division in Slovakia, members of the horseback police demonstrated on their service horses.

**Student dormitories**

Student dormitories offer accommodation and dining in two buildings some 500 metres from the university grounds. The facilities offer 414 rooms and a capacity of 830 beds for Slovak and foreign students. The rooms are fully furnished and are equipped with an Internet connection. The complex also includes sports fields, a gymnasium and two fitness centres. In the spaces of the student dormitories students have the opportunity to get involved in activities of different types of interesting clubs.

**Slávia UVMP Sports Club**

Our competitors are grouped into five competitive departments of TJ Slávia UVMP in Košice – equestrian, dog-showing, canoeing, basketball and shooting – they have successfully performed on all levels of competition, from school up through the European and world championships. In the area of community recreational sport, the following are organised in the scope of the Sport department: strength conditioning, aerobics, football, floorball and volleyball, orienteering, table tennis, water sports and hiking. TJ Slávia is the organiser of different sporting events not only for university employees. In addition to competitions of organised equestrian and dog events by the department there are also the Slovak Cup for pupils and canoeists.

Competitors from TJ Slávia UVMP have won medals in Slovak championships and at international events, while our vaulting riders and canoeists regularly finish in the top places in the European championships.

**INTERESTING CLUBS**

The activities of these interesting clubs also belong among the fine traditions of academic life. **The Flora Club** is an amateur club for those interested in cultivating house plants and decorative plants. Students and employees take part in cultivating their favourite plants in the university dormitory and in greenhouses located on the university grounds. At present they are focused especially on the care and cultivation of house plants, the cultivation of bonsai trees or cactuses and plants suitable for terrariums.

The club **Aqua Terra** is an association of students who are interested in the breeding of reptiles and aquarium fishes. It is located in the spaces of the student dormitories and is a great place to visit, particularly because here a number of truly exotic species are raised. It organises breeding examinations, open houses for preschools and breeding seminars with Košice breeders of reptiles.
Members of the **Cynological Club** are devoted to modern dog sports – obedience, agility, dogtrekking – as well as to the practicing of rescue work. Its members are university students who also take part in providing practical demonstrations for students of the *cynology* study program and who organise dog competitions and exhibitions.

Members of **Hunting Cynology Club** are concerned with the exercise and use of pureblooded dogs of hunting breeds for different activities in the scope of hunting as well as in the educational process in the scope of disciplined performance and exercise of hunting dogs such as terriers, spaniels, pointers, scent hounds and bloodhounds.

**Institute for Scientific Information and Library**

The Institute for Scientific Information and Library is the only specific academic library of veterinary medicine in Slovakia. It provides specialised information to educators, scientific workers and students at the university. In view of the uniqueness of its focus, it offers information and services to veterinary doctors working throughout the Slovak Republic and supplemental information to workplaces focused on biomedicine. It includes an editorial centre, a shop selling professional literature and an office for the ERASMUS project.