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EXAMPLE - APPLICATION LETTER
COVER PAGE

27th September 2007

To The Secretary of the European College of Veterinary Public Health (ECVPH);

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMME BY THE EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH - APPLICANT: ~~THE KNIGHT JONES~~

I am writing to formally apply for acceptance of the Veterinary Public Health residency training programme outlined below by the ECVPH.

The proposed Veterinary Public Health residency at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) is a three year programme structured to fit the requirements of the Resident Training Programme outlined by the European College of Veterinary Public Health within the sub-speciality of Population Medicine. i.e.

It is designed to educate and develop the resident in a number of different ways. One aspect consists of formal didactic learning through the completion of an MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology (RVC and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)) and a Post-Graduate Diploma (PGDipl.) in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health (RVC). The Resident shall also gain broad experience and knowledge through a variety of placements and involvement with different institutions (e.g. the RVC, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), the Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science). Project based learning is another major constituent of the Residents training.

A number of projects will be undertaken during the Residency programme (see programme outline), in particular the main residency project will be on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). This project will consist of the following objectives:

1) To verify the current risk ranking of bird species and areas with regard to their importance in the potential incursion, amplification and dissemination of the Avian Influenza (AI) H5N1 virus. This will consist of descriptive statistical analysis of available surveillance data.

2) To assess the efficiency and feasibility of the current housing order that will be applied to domestic poultry upon the identification of a case of HPAI in the wild bird or domestic bird population. This will be done via questionnaire based field work involving visiting a representative sample of poultry farms. Potential disease networks representing possible methods of spread of infection will also be investigated.

3) To identify the key risk factors involved in the transmission of HPAI from wild birds to domestic birds, should infection be present in the wild bird population in the UK. A quantitative risk assessment will be performed through the development of a risk simulation model using @RISK software. Results will be used to optimise surveillance and risk management strategies.

For full details of the programme see the outline below. I look forward to your response.

Yours Faithfully,

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Senior Clinical Training Scholar (Veterinary Public Health)