European Veterinary Society

For Small Animal Reproduction

4th EVSSAR Advanced Hand-to-Hand Course in Small Animal Reproduction

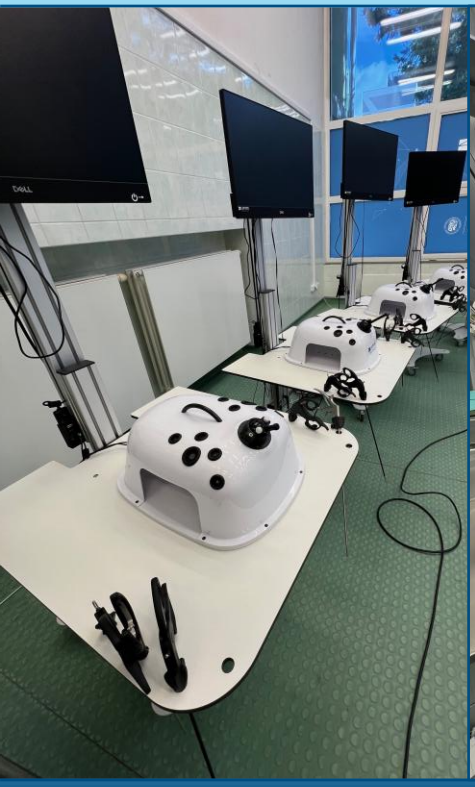
Wrocław, Poland

20-22 March 2026

Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences

About the course

- *The **fourth EVSSAR course** represents an important step in advancing the society's educational program. The course aims to **deepen the participants' practical skills**, reinforcing and expanding upon the knowledge gained in the previous sessions, while also exploring more detailed and uncommon practical procedures.*
- *Moreover, the addition of this fourth course will allow for **better distribution and balance** between Courses I and II over time, ensuring that each course receives the attention and participation it deserves. It also provides an excellent opportunity to **attract new members** and to continuously deliver **high educational value** within the EVSSAR community.*
- *Please note that **participation is limited to 16 attendees**, ensuring a personalized and hands-on learning experience.*



Welcome

- ***Venue:***

Wrocław, Poland

Department of Reproduction, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Wrocław
pl. Grunwaldzki 49; 50-366

Wroclaw, in March, is a charming and vibrant city where the first signs of spring begin to appear. Its colourful architecture, picturesque bridges, and lively atmosphere make it a wonderful place to visit. The city has preserved its beauty and welcoming character over the years, making it an excellent location for the EVSSAR courses.

Topics

Surgical Techniques in Small Animal Reproduction

✓Classical reproductive surgery (ovariohysterectomy, cesarean section, etc.)

✓Laparoscopic procedures: ovariectomy, ovarian biopsies, assisted reproduction applications

Neonatology & Perinatal Care

✓Assessment and stabilization of newborns

✓Monitoring, feeding, and resuscitation techniques

Andrology & Semen Handling

✓Semen collection methods in dogs and cats

✓Semen evaluation: motility, morphology, concentration

✓Storage, transport, and preservation techniques

Advanced Practical Procedures

✓Less common surgical interventions

✓Integrating imaging and diagnostics into clinical decision-making

Case Discussions & Problem-Solving Workshops

✓Real-life clinical cases

✓Troubleshooting challenging reproductive scenarios

Networking & Knowledge Exchange

✓Collaborative learning with faculty and peers

✓Exposure to latest research and practical insights

Program

- **Online – Pre-recorded - Theoretical lessons: available for one month before the practical part:**

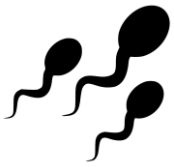
Participants would have access to pre-recorded lectures (approximately 1.5 months before the practical part) covering essential theoretical content, allowing you to prepare at your own pace and in advance (1-2 hours including Q&A session).

Topics	Speaker
Ultrasounds assessment in small animals reproduction	**Marco Russo**
Semen sampling and evaluation	**Guillaume Domain**
Small animals neonatology	**Andrea Münnich**
Surgical procedures in small animal reproduction	**Xavier Lévy**
Laparoscopic surgery in small animal reproduction	**Przemysław Prządka**
Semen handling in companion animals	**Konrad Blendinger**
Artificial insemination technique and timing in dogs	**Kathrine Thejll Kirchoff**
Repro fluids cytology: Technique & Interpretation	**Maria da Graça Cunha Antunes Lopes**

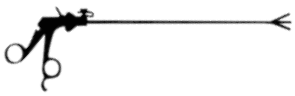
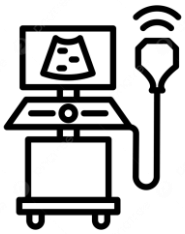
Program

- **Three days in an 80% practical lectures:**

Three intensive days focused exclusively on hands-on sessions, practical exercises, and clinical case-based discussions derived from the online modules.

Day 1 – ANDROLOGY & ASSISTED REPRODUCTION	
9:00 – 9:30	Course opening
9:30 – 11:30 	Semen Sampling & Evaluation – **Guillaume Domain**
	Dog and tom cat semen collection (The work will be organized in groups, with group composition changing for each procedure)
11:30 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 14:30	Semen preservation, banking and shipment – **Eva Axnér**
	Sperm chilling and cryopreservation (The work will be organized in groups, with group composition changing for each procedure)
14:30 – 15:30	Lunch break
15:30 – 18:00	Artificial insemination technique and timing in dogs
	The work will be organized in groups, with group composition changing for each procedure
18:00 – 18:30	Round table

Program

Day 2 - SURGICAL REPRODUCTION	
9:00 – 14:30	Surgical procedures in small animal reproduction, including caesarean section
	Ovariohysterectomy, Orchidectomy, Vasectomy, C-section (The work will be organized in groups, with group composition changing for each procedure)
14.30 – 15.30	Lunch break
15.30 – 18:30 	Laparoscopic surgery in reproduction - **Przemyslaw Prządka**
	Ovariectomy, Ovariohysterectomy, Cryptorchidism (The work will be organized in groups, with group composition changing for each procedure)
Day 3 - DIAGNOSTICS & NEONATAL CARE	
9:00 – 11:30	Cytology: Technique & Interpretation
	Cytology in male and female (The work will be organized in groups, with group composition changing for each procedure)
11:30 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 14:30 	Ultrasound in Reproductive Management – **Marco Russo** and **George Mantziaras**
	Ultrasound in andrology, gynecology, pregnancy and biometry (The work will be organized in groups, with group composition changing for each procedure)
14:30 – 15:30	Lunch break
15:30 – 17:30	Neonatal Resuscitation & Immediate Postnatal Care - **Andrea Münnich**
	APGAR assessment, neonate examination, ABC resuscitation, fluid therapy IO, IP, IV, tubing (The work will be organized in groups, with group composition changing for each procedure)
17.30 - 18:00	Questionnaires, remarks and closing

Lecturers

Andrea Münnich

Dr. Münnich completed her veterinary studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin (1988) and an internship in the US at the Veterinary Referral Center Frazer (Philadelphia) in 2000. Her primary professional focus lies in neonatology of dogs and cats, obstetrics, and treatment of complicated parturition. With more than 100 publications (original articles and reviews) and co-authorship of books in the field of reproduction, she brings both strong academic credentials and practical clinical expertise.

Eva Axnér

Prof. Axnér is Professor of Reproduction in Carnivores at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Uppsala, Sweden. She obtained her DVM in 1991 and PhD in Obstetrics & Gynaecology in 2000. Her research interests include feline reproduction, semen conservation, fertility and infertility in dogs and cats, and reproduction of wild carnivores as models for conservation. She leads the small animal reproduction clinic at SLU, and has extensive teaching experience.

Lecturers

Kathrine Thejll Kirchoff

Based in Denmark, she has extensive experience in clinical theriogenology, with a particular focus on canine and feline reproduction, sperm quality assessment, and assisted reproductive techniques. Her research has addressed the effects of nutritional and environmental factors on semen parameters and fertility, including co-authorship of studies such as the investigation of vitamin E and selenium supplementation on semen quality in Cairn Terriers.

Maria da Graça Cunha Antunes Lopes

Her research has been dedicated to gamete biology in small animals, including sperm quality assessment, oocyte maturation and fertilisation dynamics. Her educational work also includes developing simulation-based teaching tools for reproductive cytology and vaginal sampling in bitches.

Lecturers

George Mantziaras

Since 2003 he has worked as a private practitioner focusing on small-animal ultrasonography and reproduction. His research interests include the application of ultrasound in small animal reproduction (including exotic and laboratory animals) and the integration of imaging into breeding soundness evaluation. In 2016 he was elected to the Board of EVSSAR and from July 2017 he has served as President of EVSSAR.

Marco Russo

Dr. Russo is Full Professor of Veterinary Reproduction & Diagnostic Reproductive Imaging in Animals at the University of Naples Federico II (Italy). He holds more than 70 peer-reviewed publications and his recent work includes advanced ultrasound imaging of canine testes and prostate. His expertise is very relevant for the course's focus on semen collection/evaluation (andrology) and diagnostic imaging in reproduction.

Lecturers

Guillaume Domain

Dr. Domain is an academic staff member at Ghent University and practices at a private clinic in Brussels, where he specializes in andrology and semen evaluation in animals. With a professional and meticulous approach, he combines academic expertise with clinical experience to provide high-quality reproductive care and contribute to advancing veterinary reproductive science.

Konrad Blendinger

Dr. Blendinger is a recognized authority in canine and feline reproduction, with decades of clinical, teaching and research experience. He will strengthen the course by conveying both foundational and less-common procedural skills in reproduction — especially important for participants wanting a deep dive into semen handling in companion animals.

Lecturers

Xavier Lévy

Dr. Lévy has been a board member of EVSSAR and is widely recognized for his expertise in small animal reproduction, seamlessly integrating research and clinical practice. He was part of the prestigious CERCA team at Maison Alfort, contributing to cutting-edge developments in andrology, neonatology, and advanced reproductive surgery. His extensive experience in both academic and clinical settings makes him a leading authority in veterinary reproductive medicine.

Przemysław Prządka

Dr. Hab. Prządka is a specialist in veterinary surgery and minimally invasive techniques, based at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences. He leads in the field of laparoscopic surgery for companion animals

We are proud to welcome such an outstanding faculty!

Practical Information

- ***Registration link:*** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSca-HDLFhfJB6aXMMI3QLxEO6F0HHgxGd8GHWRpuWHc-yZfDg/viewform

- Participants must pass the theoretical part to access practical sessions.

- ***Course fee proposed:***
  - €2,300 per EVSSAR member/PhD student, ECAR Resident,
  - €2,500 for non-EVSSAR member (regular fee).

- ***Benefits:*** Lunches, Coffee breaks, Diploma, Course Dinner

FOLLOW US

@EVSSAR_OFFICIAL

Practical Information

- ***Recommended Hotel:***

John Paul II Hotel in Wrocław / Hotel Jana Pawła 2
Św. Idziego 2 Str
50-328 Wrocław

www: https://www.hotel-jp2.pl/

Tel: 0048 71 327 14 00

- *When booking a room, please indicate password "**EVSSAR Course**" at the hotel entitling you to a special rate*

- The price of single rooms in the period from 19.03.2026 to 23.03.2026 is PLN 290.00 per night with breakfast under the password *"**EVSSAR Course**"* .*

- In case of unavailability of single rooms, we can offer double rooms for single use at the price of PLN 330.00 per night with breakfast.

** **Booking Policy**: Guests individually apply to make a reservation using the EVSSAR Course password and arrange the payment. Guests can make reservations as long as the rooms are available from 19/03/2026 to 23/03/2026. If you make a reservation for a day from 18.03.2026 to 19.03.2026 or from 23.03.2026 to 24.03.2026, there is no discount price for the indicated password, only the price valid on the specified date.*

Many thanks!

- Course Master:

Professor Wojciech Niżański DVM PhD

Head of Department of Reproduction, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences

pl. Grunwaldzki 49, 50-366 Wroclaw, Poland

Phone 48 71 32 05 315 (302)

- Sponsors:

STORZ KARL STORZ — ENDOSKOPE

Virbac

ROYAL CANIN®

LAPARO® Medical Simulators

Precisión Celular

NORAX MEDICAL SOLUTIONS

vetmedical Distributor of Samsung Ultrasound