

The Spetse Hoeve - The Netherlands

Introduction

The Spetse Hoeve was a former farm in Veelerveen, in the northern part of The Netherlands and is now a mental health institution. They offer help to people who face addiction problems and who have previously been in contact with the justice system or are currently in contact with it. Central to the institution is the slogan "working together for new opportunities" and the ROER idea, which refers to giving direction to one's own life. Founded in 2015, the facility is part of the Terwille Foundation.



In 1998, the Terwille Foundation was founded by five police officers who were confronted with many addiction problems during their work in the city of Groningen. They noticed a lack of assistance for this specific target group. Over the years, they have developed into a recognized mental health institution in the Netherlands, offering specialized care to people with addiction problems. They also have an exit program for women who want to leave prostitution and support victims of sexual exploitation. They offer various programs and counseling inside and outside correctional facilities and also have assisted living facilities, including De Spetse Hoeve.

Scale

De Spetse Hoeve can accommodate fifteen people, which makes it a small-scale facility. All fifteen individuals are living in one house.

RESCALED-principles in practice:

- Small-scale
- Differentiated
- Community-integrated

Differentiation

Target group:

The Spetse Hoeve focuses on adult men with addiction problems. More specifically, they offer reintegration assistance by providing structure to, on the one hand, individuals with addiction problems who have already been in contact with the justice system and, on the other hand, individuals with addiction problems who are currently serving a sentence. In this case, a placement at Spetse Hoeve replaces their detention. This is

only possible in two cases. First, in the case of conditional release. Second, in a placement under a measure of systematic offenders where people who are in detention for two years can also be placed externally, for example at the Spetse Hoeve.¹

To participate in the program, it is essential that the individual is willing and motivated to work on their problems. The minimal duration of stay in the Spetse Hoeve is six months.

Forms of security:

Since, officially, Spetse Hoeve is not a detention facility but a mental health institution, static security measures are rather low and the emphasis lies on relational security. The absence of traditional static security measures, such as bars and locks, reflects the focus on creating an environment where residents feel safe and respected. Instead, the emphasis is on building positive relationships between staff and residents, creating an atmosphere of trust and understanding. Staff invest in building rapport with residents and ensure they are treated with dignity and empathy.

Regular group conversations are held to encourage open communication and jointly discuss various house rules if certain difficulties arise within the home. As much responsibility as possible is given to the residents and efforts are made to create a family environment. This not only strengthens the residents' sense of belonging, but also helps identify any concerns or problems that may arise within the facility. The humane approach recognizes the vulnerabilities and challenges of the residents and the staff works to address these needs on an individual basis.

As for the staff working in the facility, a care coordinator lives on the farm. Several counselors are present daily at Spetse Hoeve for treatment and support with practical issues. The team also includes a supervisor with experiential expertise.

Activities:

Since addiction problems are central to this facility, various treatments and therapies are an important part of the stay to focus on individual goals and opportunities for personal development. The Spetse Hoeve bases its operation on the twelve-step program of the Minnesota Method.

¹The term "systematic offenders" (in Dutch "Stelselmatige daders") refers to adults who have received at least three irrevocable sentences or legal interventions for criminal offenses within a five-year period and typically face numerous combined problems, including addiction, psychological challenges and/or intellectual disability.

A personal care plan is developed for each resident. This plan is aimed at achieving a free life full of healthy decisions adapted to individual circumstances and wishes. The main focus is on promoting a positive health, with opportunities to move on to suitable Terwille housing after the stay at the Spetse Hoeve. With this in mind, the Spetse



Hoeve offers a wide range of activities for its residents. This holistic approach focuses on recovery, growth and building a new future. Residents can choose or be assigned various responsibilities, such as maintaining the garden, cleaning and cooperating in the woodshop. In addition, residents are actively involved in activities on the farm, including caring for animals.

As a function of their recovery, residents may also engage in relapse prevention and cognitive behavioral therapy. The natural environment and the presence of animals contribute to the recovery process. For example, horse coaching and running therapy are offered at the facility. In addition, the Spetse Hoeve offers many recreational activities for residents, including mountain biking, fitness activities, animal care and more.

Community-integration

Location and architecture:

First impression of a visitor: "Because of its location and the presence of various animals, it immediately gave a very peaceful feeling. The environment was nice, although rather remote. The residents seemed happy and were very friendly".

The Spetse Hoeve is located in Veelerveen, in eastern Groningen, in the Netherlands. Veelerveen is a small, sprawling village and has about 565 inhabitants (2022).² The Spetse Hoeve is surrounded by a lot of nature, outside the community. It is remote from other cities, the nearest city is about an hour's drive away.

The Spetse Hoeve is not accessible by public transportation.

Since The Spetse Hoeve is a former farmhouse and surrounded by plenty of nature, it offers plenty of peace and quiet. Each resident has a private bedroom, while common areas include a living room, bathroom and kitchen. The common areas are decorated, giving the house a homely feeling. Outside, spacious grounds consist of various animals, a workshop, gardens and greenhouses. Spetse Hoeve has its own country store with fresh products from the farm and handmade wooden furniture from the workshop.

²Veelerveen - Inwoneraantal en Cijfers Veelerveen. (2022). *Stadindex*. Retrieved August 31st, 2023 from <https://www.stadindex.nl/veelerveen>

Interaction with the community:

The facility has a store with various goods and handmade wooden items. Although there is occasional interaction with a neighbor who asks residents for help on their farm and residents may leave the facility for work or other activities, there is generally little contact with the broader community because of the facility's remote location.

De Spetse Hoeve
Founded: 2015
Capacity: 15
Security level: Low
Nearest city/town:
Veelerveen (The Netherlands)
Nature of interaction: Visited
by RJN (20/04/2023)

Publicity/ read more

- About The Spetse Hoeve at the official website of the Terwille Foundation:

De Spetse Hoeve - Terwille verslavingszorg. (2019, December 23). *Terwille Verslavingszorg*. Retrieved August 31st, 2023, from <https://www.terwille.nl/wat-wij-doen/voor-justitie/zorgaanbod-justitie/de-spetse-hoeve/>