

Guide for Authors

Aims and scope

Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research is an international journal that focuses on all aspects of veterinary behavioral medicine, with a particular emphasis on clinical applications and research. Articles on basic research involving normal signaling or social behaviors, welfare and, or housing issues, molecular or quantitative genetics, and applied behavioral issues (eg, working dogs) that may have implications for clinical interest or assessment are encouraged. Focus is not restricted by species of interest.

Peer review

All submissions will be reviewed by two to three anonymous reviewers to evaluate them for originality, clear statement of a hypothesis, experimental design appropriate for the hypothesis, completeness of methods, and thoughtfulness of the discussion and conclusions that are supported by data. If only two reviews are solicited/received and there is conflict in their assessment, a third review will be undertaken. Authors may name up to five potential reviewers when they submit the manuscript and must provide complete contact information, including e-mail addresses; however, the Editor-in-Chief retains the right to assign different reviewers as deemed appropriate.

Peer review appeal process

If an author wishes to appeal an outcome he/she should contact the Editor-in-Chief in writing and detail his/her concern. Appeals will only be successful if reviews were inadequate or unjust.

Types of contribution

1. Original Research Papers (Regular Papers)
2. Review Articles
3. Case Reports
4. Discussion

In addition, *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research* will routinely publish editorial commentary which may be invited, book reviews, and reviews of other relevant media tools. The bulk of the journal comprises contributions from the first three groups.

Original Research Papers should report the results of original research. The material should not have been previously published elsewhere, except in a preliminary form. If the authors are uncertain of whether prior presentation or publication in abstract form poses a potential conflict, they should contact the editor prior to submission. Original research papers will be given considerable topical leeway. If the authors are uncertain if their topic is suitable for *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research* they should contact the editor.

Review Articles should cover subjects falling within the scope of the journal, which are of active current, interest. They may be submitted or invited. Because of the nature of review papers, scrupulous attention must

be paid to relevant attribution and this should be reflected in the literature cited section.

Case Reports can focus on any species, but by definition, must include core clinical content. Content can focus on a report of new condition, treatment and follow-up of complex presentations, working with variants of normal versus abnormal behaviors, a report of a familial condition with a proposed mode of inheritance, et cetera, as long as the nature of a case report is respected. The format for case reports, generally, is as follows: Presentation, history and presenting signs, physical and laboratory evaluation and any other diagnostic assessments deemed relevant, diagnosis, treatment, follow-up, summary and discussion, acknowledgements, and references. Laboratory and other data can be appended in tabular form after the references.

Discussions can include synopses of, or reports from 'think tanks' or discussion groups, topical issues that have stirred debate, or invited discussion and commentary suggested by members of the Board of Editorial Advisors. Discussion contributions are not peer-reviewed, must be published with attribution, must be more formal than those in list serves, should include citations, where relevant, and may be edited prior to publication.

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- retain patent and trademark rights and rights to any processes or procedure described in the article
- include the article in full or in part in a thesis or dissertation (provided that this is not to be published commercially)

- use the article or any part thereof in a printed compilation of your works, such as collected writings or lecture notes (subsequent to publication of your article in the journal)
- prepare other derivative works, to extend the article into book-length form, or to otherwise re-use portions or excerpts in other works, with full acknowledgement of its original publication in the journal

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Submission of manuscripts

Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research uses a Web-based system for the electronic handling of research papers during the submission and peer review process. All manuscripts must be submitted through the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research* online submission and review Web site (<http://ees.elsevier.com/jveb/>). Authors are requested to submit the text, tables, and artwork in electronic form (not as a PDF) to this address. In an accompanying letter, authors should state that the manuscript, or parts of it, have not been, and will not be, submitted elsewhere for publication. Authors are highly encouraged to include a list of three or more potential reviewers for their manuscript, with complete contact information, in their cover letter.

Submission items include a cover letter explaining why the author's work is relevant for this journal (save as a separate file for upload), the manuscript (including title page, abstract, main text, references, and table/figure legends), tables, and figures. During the submission process, you will be asked to provide the names and e-mail addresses of reviewers who might be qualified to review your submission. Revised manuscripts should also be accompanied by a unique file (separate from the cover letter) with responses to reviewers'

comments. The preferred order of files is as follows: cover letter, response to reviews (revised manuscripts only), manuscript file(s), table(s), figure(s). Files should be labeled with appropriate and descriptive file names (e.g., SmithText.doc, Fig1.eps, Table3.doc). Upload text, tables and graphics (figures) as separate files. (You can compress multiple figure files into a Zip file and upload that in one step; the system will then unpack the files and prompt you to name each figure.) Do not import figures or tables into the text document, and do not upload your text as a PDF. Complete instructions for electronic artwork submission can be found on the Author Gateway, accessible through the journal home page. Your figures will be tested by an artwork quality check tool; you will be asked to view the results before you can complete your submission. Your figures can move into review if not up to production standards, but you should be prepared to provide better quality figures should we express interest in your manuscript.

Authors who are unable to provide an electronic version or have other circumstances that prevent online submission must contact the Editorial Office prior to submission to discuss alternate options. The Publisher and Editors regret that they are not able to consider submissions that do not follow these procedures.

Circumstances relating to animal experimentation must meet the International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals as issued by the Council for the International Organizations of Medical Sciences. These are obtainable from: Executive Secretary C.I.O.M.S., c/o WHO, Via Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland or at the following URL: http://www.cioms.ch/frame_1985_texts_of_guidelines.htm

Unnecessary cruelty in animal experimentation is not acceptable to the Editors of *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research*.

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Preparation of manuscripts

Authors should have their manuscripts reviewed before submission by persons who have advanced command of English spelling, grammar, syntax and semantics and who are familiar with scientific style.

1. Manuscripts should be written in clear, concise and grammatically correct English and formatted according to the instructions listed below. Authors whose native language is not English are strongly advised to have their manuscripts checked by an English-speaking colleague prior to submission. Manuscripts that do not conform to standard English style, usage and grammar, and/or which are not adequately prepared, will be returned to the authors for modification prior to scientific review. Authors please note: Upon request, the Editorial Office will provide authors with a list of people who can check and improve the English of their paper (before submission).
2. Manuscripts should contain numbered lines and with wide margins and double-spacing throughout, i.e. also for abstracts, footnotes and references. Every page of the manuscript, including the title page, references, tables, etc. should be numbered. However, in the text no reference should be made to page numbers; if necessary, one may refer to sections. Avoid excessive usage of italics to emphasize part of the text.
3. Manuscripts are required to be organized in the following order (arrangement of the sections should be modified as appropriate for review articles, case reports, and discussion submissions after consultation with the Editor):

Title Page (to include):

- Title, which should be clear, descriptive and not too long
- Running title, not more than 48 characters
- Names and professional affiliations of all author(s)
- Current and complete postal and e-mail addresses of all authors and affiliate institutions
- Clearly indicated Corresponding author with complete correspondence information including mailing address, full telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address to which proofs should be sent

Abstract: on a separate sheet not more than 250 words. The abstract should include the objective and main findings of the paper.

Five Keywords: authors are asked to provide 5 key indexing terms germane to their subject.

Introduction: should acquaint the reader with the subject and justify the objective(s) of the research. There should be three parts to the introduction: first, a clear description of the nature and extent of the problem to be studied; second, a presentation of the pertinent research by others in the field of the study; and third, a

statement of how the authors' study challenges, expands or improves the known material. The hypothesis or objective(s) addressed in the study must be clearly stated in the final paragraph.

Materials and Methods: must contain enough information to allow another scientist to duplicate the study. Materials should be named specifically, including the manufacturer, city and state or country where the equipment or supplies were obtained. Descriptions of animals should include species, breed, sex, and age as well as husbandry methods, climate, photoperiod and geographic location of the study. A logical description of the experimental methods should follow and should include an explanation of the experimental design. Here, it may be useful to prepare a table or schematic diagram to explain procedures, such as how the animals were divided into groups, or how samples were obtained, or how behaviors were recorded or assessed over time. The method of statistical evaluation must be stated, the treatment and response variables identified, and assignment of experimental units into groups specified.

Results: must contain sufficient information to fully describe the outcome of the research. The use of tables and figures is encouraged, but authors should use text to emphasize important points, to connect results with one another, and to restate the trend of the idea (the objective already mentioned in the **Introduction**). Tables and figures must contain enough information within them and in their respective titles or legends to be understandable without referring to the text.

Discussion: contains an explanation of the meaning of the results. The principles, relationships, and general truths shown by the results should be presented without retelling the results if at all possible. Exceptions or lack of correlation should be pointed out and unsettled points defined. Agreement or disagreement with previous work should be shown. The theoretical or practical implications of the work should be discussed. Finally, the major conclusions and implications should be stated in a brief paragraph.

Acknowledgements: should contain reasonable attributions and any additional information concerning source of research grants, etc. Anyone who, in discussion with the author(s) or as part of a review, has contributed substantive ideas to any part of the paper should be acknowledged.

References: There are *no a priori* limits on the number of references cited, however those cited should be germane to the focus of the paper.

Tables: should be used to summarize data into a more easily interpreted form, and to help demonstrate patterns in the data.

Figures: should be used to reveal or summarize patterns in data that might not otherwise be so clear.

4. In typing the manuscript, titles and subtitles should not be run within the text. They

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