Instructions for Authors

The Canadian Veterinary Journal (The CVJ) provides a forum for the discussion of all matters relevant to the veterinary profession. The mission of the Journal is to educate by informing readers of progress in clinical veterinary medicine, clinical veterinary research, and related fields of endeavor. The key objective of The CVJ is to promote the art and science of veterinary medicine and the betterment of animal health.

A report suggesting that animals have been unnecessarily subjected to adverse, stressful, or harsh conditions or treatments will not be processed for publication. Experimental studies using animals will only be considered for publication if the studies have been approved by an institutional animal care committee, or equivalent, and the guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (1), or equivalent, have been followed by the author(s).

The CVJ welcomes manuscripts in English or French. Articles must be as concise as possible — articles that are too long will be reduced during the editing process. Criteria for acceptance of articles include both quality of the research or case report and relevance to our readers. All accepted manuscripts submitted to The CVJ will be subjected to check for plagiarism.

Authors are invited to submit the names and e-mail contacts of 3 reviewers. In order to be invited to review, suggested reviewers must be individuals who have published in the subject area and/or have specific expertise on the subject, and have no conflict of interest (not a member of your university, not someone with whom you have published or collaborated in the past 5 years).

Manuscripts can be made generally available through the author's institution after an embargo period of 6 months following publication.

FORMAT

The CVJ publishes 2 categories of articles:

Non-peer-reviewed articles
These include regular columns written by features editors, special reports, student papers, commentaries, and letters to the editor (maximum 500 words) by authors. Special reports are articles on any aspect of veterinary medicine; commentaries are opinions on any aspect of the veterinary profession. Unsolicited material will be considered. Consideration for publication as a student paper is limited to brief case reports that were written by students while they were attending a Canadian veterinary college. Special reports, commentaries, and student papers must not exceed 2000 words. Students interested in submitting a manuscript for publication in this category should consult with the Assistant Editor at their college. Non-peer-reviewed articles should be sent via e-mail (hbroughton@cvma-acmv.org). Viewpoints or feature articles on Animal Welfare should be submitted directly to the Animal Welfare Committee (e-mail: srenwick@cvma-acmv.org).

Steps 1–4 — (1) Type, title, abstract; (2) attributes; (3) authors and institutions; (4) reviewers
Enter the manuscript type, title, abstract, author(s) details, key-information and states that the manuscript has been seen and approved by all authors.

Steps 5 – Details and comments
A) Include a cover letter that contains author(s) contact information and states that the manuscript has been seen and approved by all authors.
B) Complete required questions.

Steps 6 – File upload
Upload manuscript, tables (Microsoft Word), figures (JPEG or TIFF format), and copyright forms. Copyright forms are available from the “Instructions and Forms” link at the top of the bar in ScholarOne Copyright forms may be scanned and uploaded with your other files at the time of submission, or faxed or e-mailed to the CVMA office at the time of acceptance.

Steps 7 – Review and submit
Review each section, review the PDF, then submit.

Note: For more detailed information on submitting your manuscript to ScholarOne, click on “Help” at the top right of your screen and go to the “Author” section.

Other non-electronic documents to be sent to the CVMA Journals Department include:
• written permission for the production of previously published work — either text or figures/tables, if applicable
• a signed letter from any contributor to the study/article who is being acknowledged (see guidelines for acknowledgments) stating that he/she has read the manuscript and is comfortable with the acknowledgment as written.

Guidelines for electronic manuscript submission

The Canadian Veterinary Journal uses an online electronic manuscript submission system (ScholarOne). Please use the website (www.canadianveterinarians.net/publications/cvj-submit-manuscript.aspx) to submit articles. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact the CVMA Journals Department at 613-236-1162, ext. 117. Other correspondence should be directed to:

Managing Editor
The Canadian Veterinary Journal
339 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 7K1
Telephone: 613-236-1162, ext. 124
Fax: 613-236-9681
E-mail: hbroughton@cvma-acmv.org

Note: All manuscripts accepted for publication will be subject to a publication fee of $160 CDN for CVMA Members and $225 CDN for Non-members. This payment will be required at the same time as any applicable fees for color figures, and will be due at the acceptance stage.

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Peer-reviewed articles
Criteria for acceptance of articles include both significance to our readers and quality of the research or case report. These articles include: 1) scientific articles, 2) case reports, 3) brief communications, and 4) review articles. Manuscripts are reviewed for possible publication by at least 2 peer reviewers, with the understanding that they are being submitted to one journal at a time and have not been published, self-archived as a preprint, simultaneously submitted, or already accepted for publication elsewhere. This does not preclude consideration of a manuscript that has been rejected by another journal or of a complete report that follows publication of preliminary findings elsewhere, usually in the form of an abstract.

Guidelines for authorship
All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. One or more authors should take responsibility for the integrity of the work as a whole, from inception to published article.

Authorship credit should be based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Conditions 1, 2, and 3 must all be met. Acquisition of funding, the collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, by themselves, do not justify authorship (2). Naming of individual members of a working group, study group, or class as authors will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Guidelines for acknowledgments
Include persons who have made substantive contributions to the study but do not qualify for authorship, and persons who have contributed their skills (editorial, linguistic, graphic, photographic) to the preparation of the paper. Do not include recognition of secretarial assistance.

The CVJ publishes 4 types of peer-reviewed articles:

1. SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES
i) Original Study — This includes reports on significant new investigations or observations, with appropriate experimental design and statistical analysis, especially those with application to veterinary practice in Canada.
ii) Retrospective Study — This type of article provides a critical review of case records, with statistical analyses where appropriate, that will contribute substantial new information to the veterinary literature.

Format for Scientific Articles
• authors should refer to scientific articles published in previous issues of The CVJ for explicit format
• articles should not be combined with a review of the literature
• body of article (Introduction to end of Discussion) must not exceed 4000 words

• the entire article should not exceed 25 pages double-spaced, including figures, tables, and references
• authors may be asked to reduce the number of tables and/or figures and the number of references if these are considered excessive
• titles of papers should not be more than 15 words.

Abstract
• no more than 150 words
• state the purpose(s) of the study or investigation, basic procedures, main findings, and principal conclusions
• if you are able to provide a French translation of the title and abstract, it would be much appreciated.

Introduction
• clearly state the purpose and rationale for the study
• do not review the subject extensively
• do not include data or conclusions from the work being reported.

Materials and methods
• describe the materials and methods used, so that the research can be repeated
• identify equipment and pharmaceuticals with the manufacturer’s or supplier’s name, city, province/state, country
• identify precisely all drugs and chemicals used, including generic names, doses, and routes of administration
• describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the reported results
• present findings with appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty (such as confidence intervals).

Results
• present results in a logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations
• do not repeat tabulated data in the text.

Discussion
• do not repeat your results
• discuss your findings, their limitations, and your conclusions in relation to the literature.

Acknowledgments
• see Guidelines for acknowledgments.

References
• see Style section that follows
• references should be limited to 35
• if your article is written in French, please use the reference style and format outlined in the French instructions for authors.

Studies involving trials of drugs and biologics
When planning studies and preparing manuscripts that involve drug trials, authors should consider the influence that their publication may have on the use of therapeutic agents in the field, particularly in an off-label context. Information should be
included that covers such matters as current approval status of the drug in Canada, withdrawal period, and what procedures were used to detect deleterious effects, such as injection site lesions or systemic reactions. The editor can be consulted in advance and will make the final decision as to whether sufficient information has been included for the protection of various interests for which the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association is responsible.

2. CASE REPORTS
These reports deal with one or more cases that concern a new or rare condition, or a unique combination of features that either will contribute substantial new information to the scientific/veterinary literature or will advance a testable hypothesis (3).

Format for Case Reports
• articles should not be combined with a review of the literature
• abstract should be no more than 50 words
• body of article must not exceed 3000 words
• the entire article should not exceed 20 pages double-spaced, including figures, tables, and references
• unheaded introduction
• include case description, discussion, acknowledgments, references
• authors are required to include a statement in their cover letter identifying the new information provided or the hypothesis that will be advanced.

3. BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS
These are short research papers that report preliminary or pilot studies or a brief investigation.

Format for Brief Communications
• include an abstract (not exceeding 50 words) that briefly states the purpose, results, and principal conclusion(s) of the study
• limit the body of text to 2000 words (no headings)
• subheadings are not required
• include acknowledgments and no more than 15 references
• figures, tables, or both, should not exceed 2.

4. REVIEW ARTICLES
Only invited reviews will be considered. A review article should be comprehensive and critical or analytical, or tutorial, in nature, so that it will provide practitioners with reliable facts and conclusions without their having to search the literature for themselves, or inform researchers where a field stands and in which directions research should go. Unpublished data should not be included in a review paper. A review article that simply documents the published literature is of limited value (4).
• body of article (Introduction to end of Discussion) must not exceed 5000 words; the entire article should not exceed 30 pages, including figures, tables, and references
• references should be limited to 50.
• identify references in text, tables, and legends by arabic numerals (in parentheses)
• number references cited only in tables or in legends to figures in accordance with a sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or illustration
• abbreviate titles of journals according to the style used in the List of Journals Indexed in Medline (www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html)
• do not use “unpublished observations” and “personal communications” (name of contact, year of contact, contact person’s affiliation) as references; references to written, not verbal, communications may be inserted within the body of text (in parentheses)
• include among the references manuscripts accepted but not yet published, by specifying the journal or book, year and volume number, if known, and adding “In press” (see example 8)
• cite information from manuscripts submitted but not yet accepted as “unpublished observations” (in parentheses)
• verify all references against the original documents
• list all authors when they number 6 or fewer; when 7 or more, list only first 3 and add “et al.”

Examples of reference style

Standard journal article

Journals paginated by issue

Books

Editor, compiler, or chairman as author

Chapter in a book

Dissertation or thesis

Published proceedings papers

Unpublished material

CD-ROM

Journal Article on the Internet

Monograph on the Internet

Homepage/website

Part of a homepage/website

Database on the Internet

5. Tables
• use a separate page, double-spaced, for each table
• submit tables in Microsoft Word
• number consecutively, using arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, …)
• supply a brief title for each
• give each column a short or abbreviated heading
• place explanatory matter in footnotes, not in the heading
• explain in footnotes all nonstandard abbreviations that are used in each table
• designate footnote by superscript letter (a,b,c)
• identify statistical measures of variations, such as standard deviation and standard error of the mean
• omit internal horizontal and vertical lines
• cite each table in the text in consecutive order.

6. Figures
• figures should not be downloaded from the Internet, as they do not have sufficient resolution. Photographs and figures must have a resolution of at least 300 dpi and be in JPEG or TIFF format
• keep letters, numbers, and symbols clear and even throughout, and large enough to be legible when reduced for publication
• put titles and detailed explanations in the legend, not on the illustration itself
• include an appropriate scale for photomicrographs and electron micrographs in the legend, with an appropriate bar (measure) on the figure
• identify the stains used
• please note that all photomicrographs/light microscopic images must be submitted and published in color
• contrast symbols, arrows, or letters used in the photomicrographs with the background
• cite each figure in the text in consecutive order
• the lines used in a line graph or drawing must be thicker than “hair-line,” they must be at least 0.03-cm (0.01-in) wide.

Note: If your manuscript as submitted contains color figures or images, you will automatically incur a fee of $150 CDN per color figure or image. All light microscopic images must be submitted and published in color. These conditions are necessary for acceptance of your article.

Please check the CVMA website (www.canadianveterinarians.net) for examples of how to set up tables and figures.

7. Units of measurement, abbreviations, symbols
• use Système International (SI) measurements throughout the manuscript (7,8)
• consult the references below (5–10) for correct abbreviations and symbols
• avoid abbreviations in titles, in the abstract, and at the beginning of a sentence
• when using an abbreviation, spell out the full term the first time it is used, unless it is a standard unit of measurement.

References