

Veterinary Record Open: extending the open access options

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Welcome to Veterinary Record Open, a new open access research journal we are pleased to launch as part of the BVA group of journals. These are exciting times for veterinary publishing with an opportunity to publish well-designed and well-reported research in a completely accessible manner. We accept all submissions relating to veterinary research from all disciplines and fields, including those that might otherwise be refused by journals with specific interests or readerships. We are dedicated to publishing veterinary research across a range of topics, including those of a more niche and specialist nature to that considered in the weekly Veterinary Record. We will consider original research articles and study protocols for publication.

Veterinary Record Open is being launched with innovative new features including the ability to publish articles as soon as they are ready rather than waiting for an issue date. Accepted articles will appear in an issue immediately upon publication, making issues that are not static but that gain content over time. Open access means that all articles published in Veterinary Record Open are freely available to a global audience on a number of databases, with the copyright being retained by the author or their employer. Veterinary Record Open will not judge research on its importance or breadth of appeal and reviewers will be asked to consider only the scientific rigour and ethics of the research. We will be using the database of reviewers that the Veterinary Record and In Practice already use and will be adding new reviewers to this valuable resource.

Along with Veterinary Record, we are keen to extend the evidence-base in veterinary medicine, and with this in mind we also encourage the submission of adequately powered studies that yield true negative results.

We encourage industry-sponsored or -conducted studies and, whenever possible, we will facilitate sharing of their accompanying raw datasets. Indeed, we strongly encourage all authors to share additional and raw

data with due respect to research participants' privacy. We are keen to increase the availability of research data by working with various data repository services to facilitate data sharing. The benefits of sharing data are outlined in the UK Data Archive's 'Managing And Sharing Data' document (www.data-archive.ac.uk/media/2894/managing_sharing.pdf). It states how data sharing can, among other things, encourage debate, promote innovation and collaboration, increase transparency, improve research methods, reduce unnecessary research duplication, and provide education and training resources. Some researchers have argued that there is also a citation advantage to be had from sharing data (www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0000308).

If a research article or study protocol is deemed worthy of publication, it will be published and deposited in PMC (formerly PubMed Central). Authors will be asked to pay an article processing charge (APC) of £1350 (exclusive of VAT for UK and EU authors) once an article is accepted although the ability to pay will not influence editorial decisions. There are no other submission or page charges and no colour charges. We appreciate that some authors will not have access to funding to cover publication costs and we will consider offering a reduction in the APC or a waiver to authors unable to pay on a case by case basis upon request. In recognition of the important contribution that peer reviewers make, we offer a 25 per cent reduction in APC for any reviewer who provides a timely completed review and whose own article is subsequently accepted within a year. BVA members will also be entitled to a 25 per cent reduction. Those that publish a study protocol will be entitled to a 50 per cent reduction and another 50 per cent reduction will be available to publish the subsequent research findings in the journal as long as the results are submitted within a reasonable time from completion of the research.

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ABOUT THE EDITOR

As a veterinary surgeon with further training in epidemiology, I applied to join the editorial team for the *Veterinary Record* and its related journals. I thought that this would be a great opportunity to work with Sandy Trees as someone I have long respected. I have been given the most wonderful challenge of starting a new journal from scratch. It is very exciting to be given the chance to consider publishing research without having to make a judgement about novelty or relevance to a journal's specific interest or area of focus.

I have both academic and practical experience in veterinary clinical epidemiology which, by definition, means that I have wide-ranging interests and experience in the conduct and evaluation of research studies. I also have a particular interest in the application and implementation of epidemiological methods within the clinical research setting. I have expertise in the methods of

study design, including survey and questionnaire design and data analysis. I have been a peer reviewer and editorial board member for numerous veterinary journals since 1999. I enjoy writing, co-writing and reviewing manuscripts for publication and relish this opportunity to contribute further to the veterinary literature. I am looking forward to commissioning scientific reviews, particularly systematic reviews of published literature. We have much work to do in veterinary medicine to publish high quality research.

Having been involved in teaching and supervising students in several different university and college faculties, I view my role as one to help students learn principles and concepts as well as to think, read and write critically. I believe that this makes for better practitioners and researchers and I hope that I will be able to reach a wider audience through my editorship of this exciting new journal.