

## International Association of Veterinary Editors

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### Consensus Author Guidelines on Animal Ethics and Welfare for Veterinary Journals

All material published in [journal name] must adhere to high ethical standards concerning animal welfare.

#### Animal ethics-based criteria for manuscript consideration

Manuscripts will be considered for publication only if the work detailed therein:

- 1) Follows international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for humane animal treatment and complies with relevant legislation;
- 2) Has been approved by the ethics review committee at the institution or practice at which the studies were conducted where such a committee exists;
- 3) For studies using client-owned animals, demonstrates a high standard (best practice) of veterinary care and involves informed client consent;
- 4) Meets all additional ethical standards set by [journal name], as follows: [*describe any journal-specific animal ethics and welfare guidelines here*].

Prior to acceptance of a manuscript, to verify compliance with the above policies, the authors must: [*journals may opt for one or more of the following*]

- 1) Sign a letter certifying that legal and ethical requirements have been met with regards to the humane treatment of animals described in the study;
- 2) Specify in Materials and Methods the ethical review committee approval process and the international, national, and/or institutional guidelines followed.

#### Animal ethics-based criteria for manuscript rejection

- 1) Manuscripts and authors that fail to meet the aforementioned requirements;
- 2) Studies that involve unnecessary pain, distress, suffering, or lasting harm to animals;
- 3) The Editor retains the right to reject manuscripts on the basis of ethical or welfare concerns.

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### Key Principles Used in Developing the Author Guidelines

- 1) All journals publishing studies in which experimental or client-owned animals are used should have a clear editorial policy on animal welfare ethics.
- 2) The policy should appear prominently in the instructions for authors and referees.
- 3) Guidelines should indicate that recommendations apply to all vertebrate (and specified invertebrate) animals and not just those reared for and used in the laboratory.
- 4) Policies should indicate any journal-specific requirements for animal welfare and demand adherence to relevant institutional, national, and international guidelines.
- 5) Policies should make clear that failure to meet ethical concerns regarding animal welfare will result in manuscript rejection.
- 6) Journals should require author declaration of compliance with animal welfare and ethical guidelines.