

# Australian Veterinary Practitioner

## Guidelines to Authors: Writing a case report (review, or scientific paper)

So, you have just been involved with an interesting case. Would you like to tell your colleagues about it? Consider writing a case report for the Australian Veterinary Practitioner! It is not as difficult as you might believe and is a very good way to consolidate your learning. It is also great to see your name in print!

A case report (or series of cases, or a review or scientific study) should be structured along the following lines.

### Title

- The title should be succinct and descriptive of the condition you are reporting

### Name(s) of the author(s)

- Surname(s) and initials, e.g. Jones AB, Smith XZ,\* Young DD
- Corresponding author is identified by \*  
The person's email address given as a footnote, e.g.  
\* Corresponding author: smithxz120@zmail.com.au

### Addresses/affiliations of the author(s)

- If all authors are from the same practice address, it is included immediately under the names, e.g.  
Jones AB, Smith XZ,\* Young DD  
Felix's Veterinary Practice, 123 Kitty Rd, Catswood 3999, VIC, Australia
- If authors are at different addresses, these need to be listed separately under the names and identified by superscript letters, e.g.  
Jones AB,<sup>a</sup> Smith XZ,<sup>b\*</sup> Young DD<sup>a</sup>  
<sup>a</sup>Felix's Veterinary Practice, 123 Kitty Rd, Catswood 3999, VIC, Australia  
<sup>b</sup>Diagnostica, Imogen Place, Brisbane 4004, QLD, Australia

The addresses should be the one(s) at which the authors were working at the time the case was seen. If an author has subsequently moved, this can be indicated by an additional superscript letter, e.g.

- Jones AB,<sup>a</sup> Smith XZ,<sup>b\*</sup> Young DD<sup>a,c</sup>  
<sup>a</sup>Felix's Veterinary Practice, 123 Kitty Rd, Catswood 3999, VIC, Australia  
<sup>b</sup>Diagnostica, Imogen Place, Brisbane 4004, QLD, Australia  
<sup>c</sup>Current address: Pete's Practice, Glenorchy, TAS, 7999

## The paper is then separated into the following headings

### ABSTRACT

The Abstract should detail the key facts about the report. It is often useful to use the sub-headings, such as Case Report and Conclusions

- Case Report: Summarise the salient features of the case, viz signalment, key clinical signs, results of important diagnostic tests/procedures, treatment and outcome (both short- and long-term if known)
- Conclusion(s): Summarise the 'take-home message' from the case report

### KEYWORDS

List a few important words or phrases that would be useful to a person who might be searching for a case such as yours on the internet.

### ABBREVIATIONS

If you use any abbreviations in your report, list and define them. Avoid the temptation to abbreviate a word (or group of words) that are only used 2-3 times in the paper. Also note that an abbreviation is

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taken to mean both singular and plural, so there is no need to add an 's' if you defined it as the former and then use it as the latter at some point in the paper.

## INTRODUCTION

This is essentially a literature review of pertinent material that sets the scene for the report. Such information needs to be referenced. It helps to summarise why the reporting of this case is important.

The first time that a reference is cited in the text of the paper, it is given a number. Numbers are allocated sequentially, commencing with 1. Thereafter, every time that reference is cited its number is used to identify it. References are listed at the end of the report (see later).

*References* are usually noted at the end of the sentence to which they refer, as a superscript numbers, and after the punctuation mark, e.g. .... has also been reported.<sup>10,11,14-17</sup>

However, they can also be used within sentence, e.g.

There are six canine<sup>1-6</sup> and four feline<sup>7-10</sup> cases that have previously been reported.

## CLINICAL FEATURES

Essentially, this section is similar to the SOAP- or HEAP-type approach in the case record. It should be presented in chronological order and, if appropriate, can be presented under the following self-explanatory sub-headings:

- Case history
- Clinical findings
- Diagnostic procedures
- Differential diagnoses
- Treatment
- Outcome, including how it was assessed, and possibly including prognosis

### *Tables*

- Data may be presented in a Table(s), with reference to it/them in the appropriate part(s) of the text as Table 1, Table 2, etc.
- All Tables are located after the list of references.
- All measurements (in the text of the paper and the Tables) must be in SI units.

### *Figures*

- Relevant, high-resolution images/figures may be included. They must be identified in the appropriate part of the text as Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.
- All Figures are listed after any Tables (after the list of references)
- Each Figure must have a short title, followed by and legend (brief description).

## DISCUSSION

The Discussion might include:

- Comparison of the reported case to any similar reports/studies in the literature.
- Strength and/or weaknesses of the present case report (especially its diagnostic procedures, treatment, etc.)
- Conclusion(s): A summary of the most important message(s) from the case report.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is the area where you can thank people who have made an important contribution to the paper, but are not listed as an author, e.g. referring veterinarian, radiologist, pathologist.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND SOURCES OF FUNDING

State any of the latter. If none, write "The authors declare no conflicts of interest or sources of funding for the work presented herein."

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## REFERENCES

References must conform to the following style:

- For papers:  
Authors. Title of paper. Journal (abbreviated and italics) Year;Issue:pages.  
For example  
Innes JF, McKee WM, Mitchell RAS, et al. Surgical reconstruction of ectrodactyly deformity in four dogs. *Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol* 2001;14:201-209.
- For chapters in books:  
Authors. Title of chapter. In: Names, editors. Name of book, edition. Name of publisher, City. Year;pages.  
For example  
Dassler CL. Canine hip dysplasia. In: Slatter D, ed. *Textbook of small animal surgery* 3rd edn. Saunders, Philadelphia. 2003;14:2019-2020.

## TABLES

- Tables must have a succinct title and concise column headings.
- Any abbreviations must be defined in a footnote to the Table.

## FIGURES

- Figures must have a succinct title, followed by a short summary of the salient features of the figure/image.
- Photographs should be submitted as high resolution jpeg or tiff files, preferably 300 dpi. The image should be titled Figure 1, etc. to correspond with the text.

## SUBMISSION

Submitting a paper to the Australian Veterinary Practitioner is simple.

Write an email to the editor indicating that you are submitting an original piece of work, that is not under consideration, or has not been published, elsewhere. (An exception to the latter may be work that has been presented at a conference, with an Abstract that has been published. If this is the case, let the editor know the details.)

Confirm that all authors have contributed to the paper and agree with its contents.

Attach the paper, plus figures as individual images, and hit send.

Well, that's about it. Your paper is then sent for peer-review.

If you have any questions as you structure your case report or other article, send the Editor an email at [editor.avp@ava.com.au](mailto:editor.avp@ava.com.au)

Which reminds me, the journal also publishes "What is your diagnosis?" papers. If you have a case that fits such a format, please contact the editor.

Bruce Parry, Editor  
March 2022