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## Front Cover – **HOOPOE** (*UPUPA EPOPS*)

The bird is brown and yellow in color with black and white wings. Its legs are short with relatively large wings. The bill is narrow and thin. The male and female birds look alike. The Hoopoe has a consolidated tassel feather on its head which it can spread at will. The females nest in holes, spaces and crates, generally close to the ground. To protect her nest, the female secretes a repugnant substance from the Uropygial gland, which smells of decaying meat. The secretion is thought to help deter predators as well as parasites.

The Hoopoe is found in Europe, Asia and Africa. In Israel there is a stable population of Hoopoes, mainly in the coastal area but there has been a tendency for the birds to spread inland due to the increase in cultivated fields and lawns. The bird feeds on insect larvae which are extracted from the soil with the aid of its long beak. The Hoopoe call is typically a trisyllabic oop-ooop, which gives rise to its English and scientific names.

The Hoopoe is mentioned in the Bible as being impure (Leviticus: 11) and the G'mara refers to it as the bird that brings dill worms for cutting the Temple stones. The bird is also mentioned in the Koran regarding King Solomon and the queen of Sheba (Sura 27). In medieval times, mystical attributes were ascribed to the Hoopoe.

In May 2008, in conjunction with the country's 60th anniversary and following a national survey of 155,000 citizens, the Hoopoe was chosen as the national bird of Israel, outpolling the Eagle, lesser kestrel, barn owl, sunbirds, warblers, bulbul, finch, and the white breasted kingfisher.

## *Editorial*

Since my appointment as editor of the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine I have tried to convince veterinarians both in the small and large animal fields to start documenting their experiences and begin writing articles, case reports and reviews for the journal. To my disappointment this has not proved to be an easy task.

I have tried to persuade my fellow veterinarians with reasons such as: document and publish your experiences; documentation and publications will allow for future advancement within the profession; the recognition of ones work by a peer reviewed journal will give acknowledgment of professional success and excellence.

This leads to the question of how do we see ourselves? On the one hand we may be judged as proficient clinicians by our clients but on the other hand it would also be regarded as an accomplishment to obtain recognition of our clinical and scientific skills from our fellow veterinarians and peers. The options are: clinician, clinician scientist or scientist clinician or scientist? Bearing in mind that we all qualified in academic institutions receiving academic degrees it seems reasonable to assume that we have a scientific background which we should be applying to enhance our clinical skills.

Following on from this I see the “writing experience” as part of our continuing scientific learning process. The documentation of our experiences obliges us to study the current literature and in so doing enhance our knowledge and expand our experience in the field in which we work.

My message in this editorial is for us veterinarians to see ourselves as “clinical scientists”; to endeavor to enhance our scientific knowledge and to be seen in the eyes of the public as responsible veterinarians. An important part of this process involves writing and I encourage my colleagues to do so.

I look forward to receiving your articles for review.

*Trevor (Tuvia) Waner*  
Editor-in Chief  
Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine