

EDITORIAL

VISIBILITY

An important aim which I have set for the Journal is acceptance to the Medline index, the bibliographic database of the National Library of Medicine for journal articles in life sciences and biomedicine. Medline is the index for about 100 veterinary science journals and is the database of choice by veterinarians. At the moment we are indexed by ISI Web of Knowledge which also grades our citation index.

Improvement of our citation index will follow our acceptance to Medline. However the road is long and will necessitate substantial adjustments which we will have to undertake. To understand these adjustments I will review some of the requirements for our acceptance to Medline.

1. Scope of the Journal: We have now defined the Journal niche as the “Middle East and Mediterranean Basin” which to my mind a suitable scope which has not been covered by other veterinary journals.

2. Quality of Content: Here we need to make an effort. We have all the potential. If only members of the academia would each devote one quality article a year to the effort we would be well on our way. We need to convince them that their academic careers will not be compromised and may even be enhanced by the fact that they will have in the long run a journal which is acceptable with a higher citation index. Not that we should only leave the work to the academic community: All of us must make every effort to improve our national journal.

3. The content of the articles: Here we need the full gamut of articles from both academics and those working in the field: Original research from experimentation, original clinical observations from both research and the field, critical reviews from veterinarians from all walks of life, case reports from both veterinary hospitals and clinics are all desirable and welcome..

4. Quality of editorial work: Every effort is being made to accept only good quality articles and the standard for acceptance is rising and will rise further with the acceptance of good quality articles. Furthermore the editorial board has laid emphasis on animal welfare where animal experiments are involved and the consideration of conflict of interests which must be declared by the authors. The peer review process, which is considered vital to the quality of the journal, is undergoing improvement and efforts are being made to enhance this aspect.

5. The production quality: The journal is produced both as a printed edition and also online, which is free of charge to users all over the world. The online version needs a lot of improvement in order to make the journal more “visible”. At the moment the articles from the journal can be found via internet search engines, however the site itself is in my opinion not optimal and requires improvement. The qualities of a good site should be ease of access, ease of use to download articles, the availability of a search engine within the site and an aesthetic appearance. This is being attended to at the moment. If anyone has ideas about this project please do not hesitate to contact me. A good internet site will make us more “visible” and that will take us a long way towards improving our status.

A special thanks to all those contributing articles. You are making the difference!

Wishing you all Chag Samach and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Trevor Waner