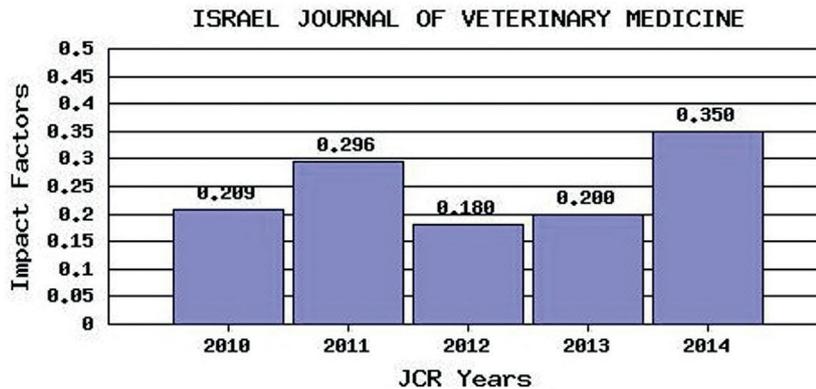


Persistent and challenging endeavors have brought the journal a significant achievement. The citation indices for scientific journals has been published for 2014 and I am happy to announce that the “immediate citation index” for the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine has doubled compared to the 2013 index and reached the mark of 0.350 a substantial increase. True that we are not yet among the outstanding journals however we rank higher than other national recognized journals. I present here the impact factor trend graph since 2010, since I took over the editorship, illustrating this achievement.



This is the first time in the history of the journal that we have reached this level. I want to thank all contributing authors for their important role in achieving this landmark and in particular Prof. Itamar Aroch for his continued support and influence on veterinarians to continue to write and publish in the IJVM. Also thanks to Dr. Gad Simon for his substantial contribution and encouragement and in particular assistance and support with the Hebrew section of the journal. The efforts of the publisher Eli Oren have indeed played an important role which I greatly appreciate.

Thankfully we have received a financial contribution from the “American Veterinarians for Israel”. This has now become an annual practice and I thank this organization sincerely. It may not be known to all that the production and printing of the IJVM is substantial and is paid mainly through membership fees. Taking into account that the journal has no fees for printing articles from authors, even those with colour illustrations, the contribution of the “American Veterinarians for Israel” is most welcome. A special thanks to the President, Dr. Bender for his consideration of our needs. The journal remains a high priority of the Israel Veterinary Medical Association and gives an opportunity to Israeli veterinarians to prove their high standard of veterinary research and practice.

I continue to advance the journal in every way possible. I will now reapply to the Pubmed for acceptance. I feel confident that we have reached the level of publication and scientific accomplishment which will allow our acceptance to this exclusive organization.

The present journal presents an assortment of articles which will be of interest to a wide-ranging readership. In particular I want to encourage our readers to study the article written by Dr. Pozzi *et al.* explaining the principles of Kosher and Halal slaughter in relation to the recommendations of the “World Organization of Animal Health” (OIE). The controversy regarding ritual slaughter has been ongoing for centuries and has reappeared in Europe over the last years. In their article Pozzi *et al.* give scientific justification for the practices carried out both in Halacha and Saria based on welfare considerations, taking care not to cause the animal excessive pain when slaughtering animals for meat production. As recently as 2014, Denmark has banned kosher and halal slaughter. Interestingly the practice of killing a young male giraffe from the Copenhagen Zoo, skinning and feeding it in front of kids was considered justifiable as the giraffe was regarded as surplus. Running the bulls and bull fighting in Spain do not seem to be within the accepted EU animal welfare regulations and still the practice continues sometimes with disastrous results to the animals and humans participating in such inhumane practices. I would be glad to hear from our readers what they think?

Wishing all our readers a pleasant summer holidays. Shana Tova, wishing you all health, happiness and a “sweet” and successful New Year.

Best regards

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