

Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery

Impact Factor: 2.1

5-Year Impact Factor: 2.2

Submission guidelines



Submit manuscript

Please read the guidelines in full before submitting your manuscript. Manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines may be returned.

Submit Manuscript 

The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* welcomes the submission of Special Collection proposals. Special Collections should be relevant to and advance the aims and scope of the journal: [/aims-scope/JFM](#), and manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the journal's submission guidelines: [/author-instructions/JFM](#).

Guest Editors should submit a proposal to the Editors via email at jfms@icatcare.org.

Papers must be submitted for peer review via the online submission site: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jfms>. The peer review process is handled by the journal's Editors, and is in line with the journal's standard practice and Sage's [policies](#) and processes.

The Editors maintain oversight of the Special Collection and have the final say on manuscript decisions. In the event of the Special Collection not reaching the required number of articles, the individual papers may be published as stand-alone articles (at the discretion of the journal Editors).

The journal will consider submissions of manuscripts that have been posted on preprint servers. Please enter the preprint DOI in the designated field when submitting your manuscript. Note that you should not post an updated version of your manuscript on a

preprint server while it is being peer reviewed. If your article is accepted, please then link your preprint to the published version in *JFMS*.

[Learn more about our preprint policy.](#)

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This journal is a member of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#).

This journal recommends that authors follow the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#) formulated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

Please read the guidelines below and then visit the journal's submission site <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jfms> to upload your manuscript. Please note that manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines may be returned. You can log in to the submission site at any time to check on the progress of your paper through the peer-review process.

Only manuscripts of sufficient quality that meet the [aims and scope](#) of the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* will be reviewed. As part of the submission process you will be required to warrant that you are submitting your original work, that you have the rights in the work, that you are submitting the work for first publication in the journal and that it is not being considered for publication elsewhere and has not already been published elsewhere, and that you have obtained and can supply all necessary permissions for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you.

1. Open Access

The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* is an open access, peer-reviewed journal. Each article accepted by peer review is made freely available online immediately upon publication, is published under a Creative Commons license and will be hosted online in perpetuity. Publication costs of the journal are covered by the collection of article processing charges, which are paid by the funder, institution or author of each manuscript upon acceptance. There is no charge for submitting a paper to the journal.

For more information relating to the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* being open access, visit the [FAQs page](#). For general information on open access at SAGE, please visit the [Open Access page](#) or view our [Open Access FAQs](#).

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2. Article processing charge (APC)

If, after peer review, your manuscript is accepted for publication, a one-time article processing charge (APC) is payable before it is published. This APC covers the cost of publication and ensures that your article will be freely available online in perpetuity under a Creative Commons license.

The full APC is \$1950 USD*.

*The APC is subject to taxes where applicable. Tax-exempt status can be indicated by providing appropriate registration numbers when payment is requested. Please see further details [here](#).

All Feline Veterinary Medical Association (FelineVMA) and International Cat Care (iCatCare) Veterinary Society members (including veterinarians specified under iCatCare Veterinary Society clinic memberships) are entitled to a generous 22% off of the APC for JFMS. **At current rates, the membership fee and discounted APC combined is significantly less than the full APC.** To become a member and take advantage of this saving, as well as a wide range of professional benefits, please see their membership pages:

FelineVMA: go.jfms.com/FelineVMAmembership

iCatCare Veterinary Society: go.jfms.com/iCatCaremembership

The following discounts may alternatively apply:

- **Editorial Board members.** A 50% discount on the APC applies if any of the authors are on the *JFMS* journals' Editorial Board. The submitting author needs to answer the submission question asking whether any authors are an Editorial Board member accordingly in order to be eligible. (Note that if there is both an Editorial Board member author and a recent reviewer author, please select 'Editorial Board Member' for the greater discount to be applied.)
- **Recent *JFMS* reviewer.** A 20% discount on the full APC applies if any of the authors have reviewed for *JFMS* in the 6 months prior to submission. The submitting author needs to answer the submission question asking whether any authors have reviewed for *JFMS* in the last 6 months accordingly in order to be eligible.
- **Institution and consortia deals.** Agreements with a number of institutions and consortia that contribute towards the APC are in place, and these are automatically applied at APC payment stage based on the author details provided during submission. The list of agreements can be found [here](#); please consider when looking at whether a discount might apply that *JFMS* is a Gold open access journal. Note that these agreements are solely between Sage and the institutions and consortia, and not the *JFMS* Editors, Editorial Team, iCatCare Veterinary Society and the FelineVMA.

- **Pre-paid accounts.** Some universities have prepaid accounts with Sage, which can be used to cover the APC. A list of universities can be found [here](#) but authors will also need to check with their librarian. To use a pre-paid account, once an article is accepted and the payment details have been received, the institution should be assigned as the Bill Payer.
- **Low-income countries.** Authors who reside in countries listed by the Research4Life programme are eligible for discounts/waivers. The relevant waiver/discount will be applied automatically based on the corresponding author's details provided during submission. More information can be found [here](#).

If you still cannot afford to pay the APC, you can get in contact with Sage to discuss any possible further options; please visit [Sage's \(Gold\) Open Access article processing charge waivers](#) page for more information. Further, the FelineVMA and iCatCare Veterinary Society have a limited number of APC waivers available for authors who are unable to pay the APC. To be considered for one of these, please fill in [this form](#).

Note that:

- Only one discount can be applied per paper, but the greatest discount available will be used.
- All of the billing and discounts applied on the APC are handled by the [Sage Journals Licensing & Payment system](#). Instructions about how to pay the APC through this system can be found [here](#).
- All discounts/waivers are handled by Sage (or the FelineVMA/iCatCare Veterinary Society solely in the case of their waivers) without any involvement of the Editors, in order to ensure editorial independence.
- Articles are not published until the APC has been paid.

See also the 'Am I eligible for a discount on the APC?' section of the [JFMS Open Access FAQs](#) page.

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3. What do we publish?

3.1 Aims & scope

Before submitting your manuscript to the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, please ensure you have read the [Aims & Scope](#).

3.2 Article types

Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery considers the following article types:

1. Original Articles

- Recommended main text word limit: 3000 words (excluding abstract, plain language summary [optional], end statements, references, tables, legends and supplementary material)
- References, figures and tables: as many is as needed/relevant

2. Review Articles (which should provide an update on recent advances in a particular field.

- Recommended main text word limit: 4000 words (excluding abstract, plain language summary [optional], end statements, references, tables, legends and supplementary material)
- References, figures and tables: as many is as needed/relevant

3. Short Communications (reporting relevant research or sufficiently substantial pilot studies)

- Recommended main text word limit: 2000 words (excluding abstract, plain language summary [optional], end statements, references, tables, legends and supplementary material)
- References, figures and tables: as many is as needed/relevant

4. Case Series (minimum of four cases)

- Recommended main text word limit: 2500 words (excluding abstract, plain language summary [optional], end statements, references, tables, legends and supplementary material)
- References, figures and tables: as many is as needed/relevant

5. Letters to the Editor:

- Recommended main text word limit: 800 words
- References, figures and tables: no more than five references (the letter should be commenting on a paper recently published in the journal; note that the Editors may send the letter to the authors of the original paper for comment so that both letter and reply may be published together).

All abstracts should be 300 words. Please see [6.1 Formatting](#) for important further information per article type in regards to headings and article structure.

Note that Case Reports and Case Series with fewer than four cases should be submitted to [Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery Open Reports](#). Original Articles or Short Communications on well-recognised diseases that report valuable national or regional data

on disease prevalence, or other relevant data, should be directed to the [Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery Open Reports](#) as a Short Communication.

Plain language summaries

A plain language summary (PLS) can be provided for all article types that require an abstract. The plain language title (approx. 50 words) and plain language summary (approx. 300 words) should describe the article using non-technical language, making it accessible to a wider network of readers. More information and [guidance on how to write a PLS](#) can be found on our Author Gateway.

The PLS publishes directly below the scientific abstract, and are open access making it available online for anyone to read (including on PubMed). Peer review of the PLS will be conducted following our [PLS reviewer guidelines](#). When submitting, authors should enter their plain language title and plain language summary into the box provided in the submission system when prompted. The PLS does not need to be provided in the manuscript text or as a separate file. If you are not submitting a PLS with your submission, please enter 'N/A' in each box.

If you need professional help writing your plain language summary, [please visit our Author Services portal](#).

3.3 Writing your paper

The SAGE Author Gateway has some general advice and on [how to get published](#), plus links to further resources. More information on preparing an article can be found in section 6.

3.3.1 Making your article discoverable

For information and guidance on how to make an article more discoverable, visit the Gateway page on [How to Help Readers Find Your Article Online](#)

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4. Editorial policies

4.1 Peer review policy

SAGE does not permit the use of author-suggested (recommended) reviewers at any stage of the submission process, be that through the web-based submission system or other communication. Reviewers should be experts in their fields and should be able to provide an objective assessment of the manuscript. Our policy is that reviewers should not be assigned

to a paper if:

- The reviewer is based at the same institution as any of the co-authors.

- The reviewer is based at the funding body of the paper.
- The author has recommended the reviewer.
- The reviewer has provided a personal (e.g. Gmail/Yahoo/Hotmail) email account and an institutional email account cannot be found after performing a basic Google search (name, department and institution).

If the Editors or members of the Editorial Board ever submit their own manuscripts for possible publication in the journal, then the peer-review process will be managed by the other Editor/alternative members of the Board and the submitting Editor/Board member will have no involvement in the decision-making process.

All manuscripts are reviewed as rapidly as possible, while maintaining rigor. Our policy is to have two independent reviewers for each manuscript. Reviewers make comments to the author and recommendations to the handling Editor who then makes the final decision. Generally the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* does not allow more than one round of major revisions and not more than two rounds of revisions in total during the peer-review process.

The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* operates a strictly double-anonymized peer-review process in which the reviewers' names are withheld from the author and the authors' names from the reviewers. A reviewer may at their own discretion opt to reveal their name to the authors in their review, but the journal's standard policy practice is for their identities to remain concealed.

To ensure fair and anonymous peer review, your manuscript must be fully anonymised. Please ensure identifying information is replaced with 'xxx' in the main manuscript document and included on the Title Page instead. Do not include any author names in the manuscript file name and remove names from headers and footers. This version of the manuscript **will** be sent to the peer reviewers. The Title Page **will not** be sent to peer reviewers. See the Sage Journal Author Gateway for [detailed guidance on making an anonymous submission](#)

The Title Page should include:

- Article title (which should be concise [20 words maximum])
- The full list of authors including names and affiliations of each
 - The listed affiliation should be the institution where the research was conducted. If an author has moved to a new institution since completing the research, the new affiliation should be included in a note in the Title Page.
 - All persons eligible for authorship must be included at the time of submission (please see the [authorship](#) section for more information).



- Post-nominals and contact information for the corresponding author: name, institutional address, email address
- Acknowledgments
- Declaration of conflicting interest
- Funding statement
- Any data availability statement
- Any other identifying information related to the authors and/or their institutions, funders, approval committees, etc, that might compromise anonymity.

The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* has partnered with Web of Science (previously Publons). Web of Science is a third-party service that seeks to track, verify and give credit for peer review. Reviewers for the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* can opt in to Web of Science in order to claim their reviews or have them automatically verified and added to their reviewer profile. Reviewers claiming credit for their review will be associated with the relevant journal, but the article name, reviewer's decision and the content of their review is not published on the site. For more information visit the [Web of Science](#) website.

4.2 Authorship

Papers should only be submitted for consideration once consent is given by all contributing authors. Those submitting papers should carefully check that all those whose work contributed to the paper are acknowledged as contributing authors.

The list of authors should include all those who can legitimately claim authorship. This is all those who:

1. Made a substantial contribution to the concept and design of the work and/or acquisition of data (e.g. in a multicentre paper, contributing more than 10% of the cases) and/or analysis and interpretation of data; and
2. Drafted the article or revised it critically for important intellectual content; and
3. Approved the version to be published; and
4. Have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

Authors should meet the conditions of all of the points above. When a large, multicentre group has conducted the work, the group should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript. These individuals should fully meet the criteria for authorship.

Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship, although all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an Acknowledgments section (see section 4.3). Please refer to

the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\) authorship guidelines](#) for more information on authorship.

Please [view our authorship policies](#), which includes information on criteria for authorship, who should be the corresponding author and more.

Please note that AI chatbots, for example ChatGPT, should not be listed as authors. For more information see the [policy on Use of ChatGPT and generative AI tools](#).

4.3 Acknowledgements

Any contributor who does not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an Acknowledgements section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, or a department chair who provided only general support.

Per [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) recommendations, it is best practice to obtain consent from non-author contributors who are being acknowledged in a paper.

4.3.1 Third-party submissions

Where an individual who is not listed as an author submits a manuscript on behalf of the author(s), a statement must be included in the Acknowledgements section of the manuscript and in an accompanying cover letter. The statements must:

- Disclose this type of editorial assistance – including the individual’s name, company and level of input
- Identify any entities that paid for this assistance
- Confirm that the listed authors have authorized the submission of their manuscript via the third party and approved any statements or declarations (e.g. conflict of interest, funding)

Where appropriate, SAGE reserves the right to deny consideration to manuscripts submitted by a third party rather than by the authors themselves.

4.3.2 Writing assistance

Individuals who provided writing assistance (e.g. from a specialist communications company) do not qualify as authors and so should be included in the Acknowledgements section. Authors must disclose any writing assistance – including the individual’s name, company and level of input – and identify the entity that paid for this assistance. It is not necessary to disclose use of language polishing services.

The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* requires all authors to acknowledge their funding in under a separate 'Funding' heading in the Title page. Please visit the [Funding Acknowledgements](#) page on the SAGE Journal Author Gateway to confirm the format of the acknowledgment text in the event of funding, or state that 'The authors received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.'

4.5 Declaration of conflicting interests

It is the policy of the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* to require a declaration of conflicting interests from all authors enabling a statement to be included in all published articles. Examples of a conflict of interest that should be declared include if a product manufactured by (or a particular, perhaps unusual, technique performed at) the institution/company/practice of an author is mentioned in the article.

Please ensure that a 'Conflict of interest' statement is included in the Title Page. If no conflict exists, please state that 'The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article'.

For guidance on conflict of interest statements, please see the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors recommendations](#).

4.6 Clinical and research ethics, and informed consent

Authors should read the below guidelines before undertaking their study and prior to submitting their manuscript to the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* in order to ensure requirements have been adequately met. Failure to meet these guidelines could result in rejection of the manuscript at any stage, including potentially after peer review.

Circumstances relating to the use of animals in clinical and experimental studies should consider the international standards as set out in:

- The International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals (1985) from the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, available at <https://cioms.ch/shop/product/international-guiding-principles-for-biomedical-research-involving-animals-2/> (or from the Executive Secretary CIOMS, c/o WHO, Via Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland).
- The ARRIVE Guidelines, available at: <https://arriveguidelines.org>.

In addition to the above, for manuscripts submitted to the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, the Editors would not support publication of:

- Any experimental studies directly resulting in euthanasia of the cats.
- Studies using non-experimental (eg, client-owned) cats that may cause the cat a level of pain, suffering, distress or harm higher than that induced by inserting a hypodermic

needle, and/or where the procedure is not part of 'Recognised Veterinary Practice'. Recognised Veterinary Practice would include investigations, procedures and therapies that are part of normal clinical practice and that would be of direct benefit for the individual cat (or potentially to the group to which it immediately belongs). Where investigations, procedures or therapies are unproven, or where there is deliberate exposure of cats to procedures or interventions that might be deleterious to their welfare (physical, cognitive and emotional) without direct clinical benefit to them, it is highly likely that experimental cats should be used with appropriate attention to their welfare, with the requisite ethical approval (see below). If authors are in any doubt, they are encouraged to contact the Editors prior to manuscript submission.

The Editors would also expect that for all manuscripts submitted:

- Where appropriate, analgesia, sedation and/or anaesthesia must have been used and the authors should have adequately discussed the use of analgesia for the welfare of the cats involved.
- Where antibacterial agents have been used, their use should be justifiable and follow current recommendations (including measures to minimize the development of antibacterial resistance) and/or the use of antibacterials should be critically discussed.
- Any drugs or therapeutic agents used must have been obtained legally and ethically, following all relevant locally applicable regulations. The off-label use of drugs or the use of unlicensed/compounded/reformulated drugs should be acknowledged and justified. In addition, where unlicensed/compounded/reformulated drugs are used, authors should provide details of what quality control measures were used in their production. The Editors may request additional specific information in such circumstances.
- Research involving experimental animals must always have received prior approval from an appropriate ethics committee with oversight of the facility in which the studies were conducted, and this may also apply to some studies involving client-owned animals (see 4.6.1 Ethical approval).

If you are in any doubt as to whether your article would be suitable for consideration based on the above, please contact jfms@icatcare.org. The Editors reserve the right to reject manuscripts on ethical or welfare grounds when, in their opinion, studies involve unnecessary pain, distress, suffering, harm or potential harm to animals; and where the above guidelines have not been followed.

4.6.1 Ethical approval

All material published in the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* must adhere to high ethical standards concerning animal welfare and meet the above guidelines. Irrespective of the nature of the work (eg, prospective, retrospective or experimental studies, case series or review), authors are required to make an ethical approval declaration in an 'Ethical approval'

section in the end matter of the main manuscript using one of the statements below. The **exact** wording of the statements below must be used; no further information should appear in this section but should instead be included in the main body of the article itself (ensuring, however, that any identifying information is replaced with an 'xxx' in the main document and then listed in full on the Title page).

1. The work described in this manuscript involved the use of non-experimental (owned or unowned) animals. Established internationally recognized high standards ('best practice') of veterinary clinical care for the individual patient were always followed and/or this work involved the use of cadavers. Ethical approval from a committee was therefore not specifically required for publication in *JFMS*. Although not required, where ethical approval was still obtained, it is stated in the manuscript.
2. The work described in this manuscript involved the use of non-experimental (owned or unowned) animals and procedures that differed from established internationally recognized high standards ('best practice') of veterinary clinical care for the individual patient. The study therefore had prior ethical approval from an established (or ad hoc) committee as stated in the manuscript.
 - *This statement might, for example, apply to randomized and/or controlled trials (including where established interventions are being compared with each other), as well as studies where novel medications, techniques, devices or interventions established as safe but not currently part of 'Recognised Veterinary Practice' are used.*
 - *Authors must state in the main document (typically the Materials and methods, but alternatively the Case description or Case series description) the nature of the institutional, national or international ethical review body used and, if available, the ethical approval number. (If any of this information could give away your identity as an author, please replace this with 'xxx' and include the identifying information on the Title page.)*
 - *If an existing ethical review body was not available, authors should state why (typically in the Materials and methods, but alternatively in the Case description or the Case series description), and should describe the nature of an ad hoc committee that was used (which must have included at least some individuals independent of the institute[s]/clinic[s] involved in the work). (If any of this information could give away your identity as an author, please replace this with 'xxx' and include the identifying information on the Title page.)*
3. The work described in this manuscript involved the use of experimental animals and the study therefore had prior ethical approval from an established (or ad hoc) committee as stated in the manuscript.
 - *Authors must state in the main document (typically the Materials and methods, but alternatively the Case description or Case series description) the nature of the institutional, national or international ethical review body used and, if available, the ethical approval number. (If any of this information could give away your identity as an*

author, please replace this with 'xxx' and include the identifying information on the Title page.)

- *If an existing ethical review body was not available, authors should state why (typically in the Materials and methods, but alternatively in the Case description or the Case series description), and should describe the nature of an ad hoc committee that was used (which must have included at least some individuals independent of the institute[s]/clinic[s] involved in the work). (If any of this information could give away your identity as an author, please replace this with 'xxx' and include the identifying information on the Title page.)*

4. This work did not involve the use of animals and therefore ethical approval was not specifically required for publication in *JFMS*.

- *Authors may select this option if, for example, the manuscript is solely a review using previously published data, or reports on questionnaire or in vitro findings. This statement is not suitable for manuscripts containing novel animal-specific data (including retrospective studies).*

For any queries regarding the best-fit statement, please contact jfms@icatcare.org

4.6.2 Informed consent and informed consent for publication

The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* requires all authors to make informed consent declarations regarding (1) informed consent for use of animals within a study **and** (2) informed consent for publication where any animal or person may be identifiable as a result of the publication (eg, a recognizable photograph, description or unique identifiable feature). Authors must therefore in an 'Informed consent' section in the end matter of the main manuscript provide the appropriate informed consent statements from below.

The **exact** wording of the statements below must be used; no further information should appear in this section but should instead be included in the main body of the article itself (ensuring, however, that any identifying information is replaced with an 'xxx' in the main document and then listed in full on the Title Page).

1. Informed consent (verbal or written) was obtained from the owner or legal custodian of all animal(s) described in this work (experimental or non-experimental animals, including cadavers, tissues and samples) for all procedure(s) undertaken (prospective or retrospective studies).

2. This work did not involve the use of animals (including cadavers) and therefore informed consent was not required.

- *Authors may select this option if, for example, the manuscript is solely a clinical review or clinical guidelines using previously published data, or reports on questionnaire or in vitro findings, and does not involve the publication of any novel animal-specific data.*

AND also one of the following (using the **exact** wording):

1. For any animals or people individually identifiable within this publication, informed consent (verbal or written) for their use in the publication was obtained from the people involved.
2. No animals or people are identifiable within this publication, and therefore additional informed consent for publication was not required.

4.7 Reporting guidelines

The relevant [EQUATOR Network](#) reporting guidelines should be followed depending on the type of study. It is recommended that randomized controlled trials submitted for publication include a completed [CONSORT flow chart](#) as a cited figure and the completed CONSORT checklist uploaded as a supplementary file. It is also recommended that systematic reviews and meta-analyses include the completed [PRISMA](#) flow chart and PRISMA checklist as a supplementary file. The [EQUATOR wizard](#) can help you identify the appropriate guideline.

Other resources can be found at [National Library of Medicine's Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives](#).

Guidelines for papers determining reference intervals in veterinary species can be found at: https://www.asvcp.org/page/QALS_Guidelines.

4.8 Research data

The journal is committed to facilitating openness, transparency and reproducibility of research, and has the following research data sharing policy. For more information, including FAQs please visit the [SAGE Research Data Policies pages](#).

Encouragement (share, cite, and linking encouraged)

Subject to appropriate ethical and legal considerations, authors are encouraged to:

- Share their research data in a relevant public data repository
- Include a data availability statement linking to their data. If it is not possible to share the data, including a statement to confirm why it cannot be shared.
- Cite this data in their research

If research data needs to be anonymized for peer review, the SAGE [Research Data Sharing FAQs](#) provide guidance.

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5. Publishing policies

5.1 Publication ethics

SAGE is committed to upholding the integrity of the academic record and encourage authors to refer to the Committee on Publication Ethics' [International Standards for Authors](#) and view the Publication Ethics page on the [SAGE Author Gateway](#).

5.1.1 Plagiarism

The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* and SAGE take issues of copyright infringement, plagiarism or other breaches of best practice in publication very seriously. They seek to protect the rights of their authors and always investigate claims of plagiarism or misuse of published articles. Equally, they seek to protect the reputation of the journal against malpractice. Submitted articles may be checked with duplication-checking software. Where an article, for example, is found to have plagiarized other work or included third-party copyright material without permission or with insufficient acknowledgement, or where the authorship of the article is contested, they reserve the right to take action including, but not limited to: publishing an erratum or corrigendum (correction); retracting the article; taking up the matter with the head of department or dean of the author's institution and/or relevant academic bodies or societies; or taking appropriate legal action.

5.1.2 Prior publication

If material has been previously published, it is not generally acceptable for publication in a SAGE journal. However, there are certain circumstances where previously published material can be considered for publication (such as prior presentation of study findings/results at conferences or meetings, which should be described in an 'Author note' section). Please refer to the guidance on the [SAGE Author Gateway](#) or, if in doubt, contact jfms@icatcare.org.

5.2 Contributor's publishing agreement

Before publication, SAGE requires the author as the rights holder to sign a Journal Contributor's Publishing Agreement. The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* publishes manuscripts under [Creative Commons licenses](#). The standard license for the journal is Creative Commons by Attribution Non-Commercial (CC BY-NC), which allows others to re-use the work without permission as long as the work is properly referenced and the use is non-commercial. For more information, you are advised to visit [SAGE's OA licenses page](#). Alternative license arrangements are available, for example, to meet particular funder mandates, made at the author's request.

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6. Preparing your manuscript

1. Formatting

The preferred format for a manuscript is Word. The document should have continuous line numbering, use a standard font (eg, Calibri) and have all figures, tables and supplementary material cited in the text in numerical order.

As the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery operates a double-anonymised peer-review process, please ensure your manuscript is fully anonymised (ie, replacing any anonymising information with 'xxx' and including the identifying information on the Title Page instead). See the '[peer review policy](#)' section above for further details. The article's keywords (a minimum of four, not including 'cat' or 'feline') should be included at the beginning of the article. An abstract should follow, using the subheadings and word limits listed for each article type below; the abstract should not contain reference citations.

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- Main text structured with headings of the author's choice, followed by 'Conclusions', 'Acknowledgements' (if applicable), 'Author note' (if applicable), 'Ethical approval', 'Informed consent' and 'References' headings
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9. Further information

Any correspondence, queries or additional requests for information on the manuscript submission process should be sent to the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* Editorial Office at jfms@icatcare.org.

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