

## Laboratory Animals

Impact Factor: 1.3

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### Submission guidelines



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The 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).

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**Accepts preprints?** Yes

**Identity transparency:** Single anonymized

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## Preparing your manuscript for submission

Your article must be within the scope of the journal and be of sufficient quality. If not, it will not be reviewed. Please read the journal's [Aims and Scope](#) to see if your article is appropriate.

The manuscript must be your original work, you must have the rights to the work, and you must have obtained and be able to supply all necessary permissions for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you, including figures, illustrations, tables, lengthy quotations, or other material previously published elsewhere.

## Article types

Please note that LAJ prioritizes original research over other types of articles.

Please visit the Sage Journal Author Gateway for [guidance on producing visual and/or video abstracts](#).

### Original Articles

Articles describing substantial original research that fall within the aims and scope of the journal. These should be up to 5,500 words including the abstract, figure/table captions and references and have no more than six displays (figures and tables). Original Research Articles must comply with the [ARRIVE 2.0 Guidelines](#). Structured headings are required and must include: Title, Abstract, Introduction; Animals, Material and Methods; Results; Discussion; Acknowledgements, References, Data Availability Statement, Conflict of Interest Statement, and Funding. The abstract must be unstructured and consist of a single paragraph with fewer than 250 words. For manuscripts whose word counts exceed 5,500 or more than six displays, the additional information and displays can be submitted as supplementary information.

### Working Group Reports

Articles describing the recommendations or conclusions from working parties or groups mandated by one or more subscribing associations. These should be up to 7,500 words including references (of which there should be no more than 50), abstract, figure/table captions and the abstract. A hyperlink to additional information or the full deliberations of the Working Group will be accommodated and hosted as supplementary information on the journal website. All cited members of working parties will be considered as authors for the purposes of copyright.

Submissions are initially accepted from [Subscribing Societies](#). Group reports from specific theme-based meetings- may be considered if there is a clear broader impact in the laboratory animal community. Reports with a strong and restricted focus /emphasis on a unique country will not be accepted. For any documents proposing new guidance or monitoring protocols, we strongly suggest authors provide evidence-based data to support the impact of their proposed platforms.

### Review Articles

LAJ prioritizes Review Articles on novel methodologies or high-impact topics with regards to animal welfare and the 3Rs.

Literature Review Articles of a substantial and topical nature may be considered for publication in LAJ. These must be up to 7,500 words including abstract, figure/table captions and references.

### Systematic Reviews

LAJ prioritizes Systematic Reviews on novel methodologies or high-impact topics with

regards to animal welfare and the 3Rs. Systematic reviews and Meta-Analysis must be written in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses ([PRISMA Guidelines](#)). We also encourage the authors to check the Systematic Review Centre for Laboratory Animal Experimentation ([SYRCLE starting guidelines](#)) before submission.

Please note that we only accept systematic reviews which are already preregistered.

### Case Reports

The journal also publishes case reports or case series ([Sánchez-Morgado et al., 2022](#)).

Case reports and case series must report one of the following:

1. a) A new and/or emerging disease; b) A new association or variation in a disease process; c) An unreported or unusual adverse drug reaction; d) An unexpected or unusual presentation of a common problem or an unexpected event in the course of observing or treating an experimental animal that has not been previously reported; e) Findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect; f) A case which could be used as a teaching exercise in deductive reasoning and clinicopathological correlation and/or a practical lesson for the investigation and/or management of similar cases.

Word count should not exceed 3,000 words, including abstract and references. Word count for the abstract should be 250 words. No more than 4 displays (tables and/or figures). Up to 30 references.

### Short Reports

Technical notes and preliminary communications with adequate methodological details and conclusions. These should have fewer than 1,500 words including abstract, figure/table captions and references. The abstract should have fewer than 200 words, and have no more than two figures or tables.

### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication but only on issues related to the scientific or ethical content of the journal, and authors will be given the opportunity to publish a reply to any letters.

### LAS Perspectives

Perspective or opinion papers as well as news on current laboratory animal science topics. Word count should not exceed 1,500 words, excluding references. No abstract is needed, no subheadings needed. No more than 2 displays (tables and/or figures). Up to 10 references. The LAJ Editorial team may ask suitable experts to write a comment on a LAS perspectives paper.

### News Items

Submissions are only accepted from [Subscribing Societies](#).

Submissions should be no more than 1,500 words including abstract and references. If two pictures are included the word limit reduces to 1,000 words. Articles can be in the language of the societies and/or in English. Contributions to the News section are not subject to peer review and they reflect the opinion of the subscribing society. If accepted for publication, authors will be required to provide contact details and sign an electronic copyright form. Questions may be sent to the Editorial Office at [laeditorial@sagepub.co.uk](mailto:laeditorial@sagepub.co.uk).

### Animal Ethical Considerations

Papers will only be published if the experimental procedures employed conform with the accepted principles of how animals are used in biomedical science. Usually, the principles applied will be those specified in the [European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals](#) used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes and its appendices, the [National Research Council Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#).

According to the [ARRIVE Guidelines 2.0](#), which Laboratory Animals has endorsed:

The ethical statement must “provide the name of the ethical review committee or equivalent that has approved the use of animals in this study and any relevant license or protocol numbers (if applicable). If ethical approval was not sought or granted, provide a justification.”

Ethical considerations must be included in the methods section under the appropriate headings. At a minimum, authors must provide:

- A clear ethical justification, describing the ethical and welfare implications of the experimental design or procedures.
- Details of licenses or approvals from ethical review bodies. If ethical approval was not required, authors must explicitly state this and provide a detailed justification. For example, can the scientific objectives be achieved using techniques that do not require the use of animals? Or was it necessary for animals to be specifically killed to supply the tissue samples?
- Information on measures taken to minimize potential suffering, including sample size determination, pilot testing, and predefined humane endpoints, should be provided here. This section is intended to offer a concise summary of the strategies implemented to reduce suffering. It is not meant to duplicate the detailed descriptions found later in the Materials and Methods section, but rather to give authors and reviewers a quick overview.
- A detailed account of the fate of all animals used in the study.
- A description of steps taken to enhance animal welfare, such as, but not limited to, environmental enrichment.

By enforcing these standards, Laboratory Animals supports the responsible and ethical use of animals in research and fosters a culture of care that prioritizes animal welfare while advancing scientific knowledge.

The methodology for the euthanasia of animals should be consistent with recommendations of the AVMA Guidelines and the Directive 2010/63/EU, specifically [Annex IV](#), which outlines the acceptable methods for euthanizing animals used in scientific research within the EU. Please read the Editorial entitled '[You and your research report: implementing the ARRIVE Guidelines](#)' for further clarification.

Of particular note, the source and full strain nomenclature of any laboratory animal stock must be specified according to [international recommendations](#). Authors should note this information is available from source laboratories and animal vendors. A brief statement describing the legislative controls on animal care and use should be provided. Measures to refine experimental techniques to benefit animal welfare can be described in detail and the disposition and fate of the animals at the end of the experiment should be clear.

Products used (e.g. drugs, equipment, feed, bedding) should be described in the format "generic description (trade name, vendor name, city and country where vendor located)".

The experimental design and the statistical analysis should be detailed, particularly in relation to using only the appropriate numbers of animals (see Festing M et al. [The Design of Animal Experiments: Reducing the use of animals in research through better experimental design 2nd Edition](#), available from Sage). Pre-test power analyses should be presented in justification of sample size or number of animals required whenever possible. Power analyses for many common statistical procedures both parametric and non-parametric are given in Zar J. *Biostatistical Analysis*, 4th edn. When reporting variability about the mean, variances, and/or discussing significance or non-significance of statistically derived values, the Zar recommendations should be considered, and claims of statistical non-significance should be accompanied by post-test power analyses whenever possible.

Furthermore, in research involving humans, whether through surveys, questionnaires, or sampling, an ethical statement issued by a competent ethics commission must be included. The statement should confirm that informed consent was obtained—or explain why it was deemed unnecessary,—state whether ethical approval was granted (if required), and specify the name of the ethics committee along with the approval number or identification. In case, the ethical commission decides not ethical approval is needed, a waiver statement mentioning the research does not need an ethical approval is enough. Regardless the decision, all statements should confirm that the

research was conducted in accordance with relevant ethical standards, such as the Declaration of Helsinki (if appropriate). Moreover, the statement should include a description of how the data has been and will be managed and stored to ensure security, anonymity, and/or confidentiality.

More information on [ethics](#) is available through our publisher, Sage.

### Clinical trial registration

The journal conforms to the [ICMJE requirement](#) that clinical trials are registered in a [WHO-approved public trials registry](#) at or before the time of first participant enrollment as a condition of consideration for publication. The trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

### Reporting guidelines

Your manuscript **must** follow the relevant [EQUATOR Network reporting guidelines](#), depending on the type of study. The [EQUATOR wizard](#) can help identify the appropriate guideline. You will need to upload the appropriate checklist with your submission.

Other resources can be found at [NLM's Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives](#).

If your research involves animals, you will be asked to confirm that you have carefully read and adhered to the [ARRIVE guidelines](#).

### Formatting your manuscript

#### Accepted file types

Preferred formats for the text and tables of your manuscript are Word DOC, RTF, XLS. You do not need to follow a template, but please ensure your heading levels are clear, and the sections clearly defined.

LaTeX files are also accepted. A LaTeX template is available on the [Sage Journal Author Gateway](#).

The text should be double-spaced throughout and with a minimum of 3cm for left and right hand margins and 5cm at head and foot. Text should be standard 10 or 12 point.

#### Title

Your manuscript's title should be concise, descriptive, unambiguous, accurate, and reflect the precise contents of the manuscript. A descriptive title that includes the

topic of the manuscript makes an article more findable in the major indexing services.

### Abstract

Please include an unstructured abstract of 250 words between the title and main body of your manuscript that concisely states the purpose of the research, major findings, and conclusions. If your research includes clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract. Submissions that do not meet this requirement will not be considered.

For clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

This journal includes video abstracts.

### Keywords

Please include between 1-5 keywords, listed after the abstract. Keywords should be as specific as possible to the research topic.

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If you are including an Acknowledgments section, this will be published at the end of your article. The Acknowledgments section should include all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship. Per [ICMJE recommendations](#), it is best practice to obtain consent from non-author contributors who you are acknowledging in your manuscript.

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#### Ethical considerations

Please include your ethics approval statements under this heading, even if you have already included ethics approval information in your methods section. If ethical approval was not required, you need to explicitly state this. You can find information on what to say in your ethical statements as well as example statements on our [Publication ethics and research integrity policies page](#).

All papers reporting studies involving human participants, human data or human tissue must state that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board approved the study, or waived the requirement for approval, providing the full name and institution of the review committee in addition to the approval number. If applicable, please also include this information in the Methods section of your manuscript.

#### Consent to participate

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#### Consent for publication

Submissions containing any data from an individual person (including individual details, images or videos) must include a statement confirming that informed consent for publication was provided by the participant(s) or a legally authorized representative. Non-essential identifying details should be omitted. Please do not submit the participant's actual written informed consent with your article, as this in itself breaches the patient's confidentiality. The Journal requests that you confirm to us, in writing, that you have obtained written informed consent to publish but the written consent itself should be held by the authors/investigators themselves, for example in a patient's hospital record. The confirmatory letter may be uploaded with your submission as a separate file in addition to the statement confirming that consent to publish was obtained within the manuscript text. If this is not applicable to your manuscript, please state 'Not applicable' in this section.

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The following summary describes the peer review process for this journal:

Identity transparency: Single-anonymized

Reviewer interacts with: Editor

Review information published: None

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- 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).

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