

Veterinary Pathology

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Submission guidelines



Submit manuscript

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

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body compliance, and depositing your article in repositories, please [visit Sage's Author Archiving and Re-Use Guidelines](#) and [Publishing Policies](#).

Text of the manuscript: key points

- Microsoft Word file, Arial 12-point font, left-justified, 1 inch margins on all side, double-spaced, number every page, use continuous line numbering.
- **Full-length manuscripts:** Title page, Abstract (≤ 250 words), Keywords (119 characters, use MeSH terms), Introduction (heading omitted), Materials and Methods (include statement on ethical treatment of animals; follow ARRIVE guidelines when relevant), Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, Authors' Contributions, References, Figure legends. Submit tables as separate files.
- **Brief communications and case reports:** Abstract (≤ 150 words), Keywords, Body of the text (< 1700 words) with no subheadings, Acknowledgements, Authors' Contributions, References ($n \leq 20$), Figure legends. No more than two plates of 8 figures total.
- Cite figures and tables in the order they appear in the text.
- Title page: informative and descriptive title, authors names, institutions, contact information of corresponding author.
- Copying material from other manuscripts, including the author's own work, constitutes plagiarism and is unacceptable.

Figures: key points

- Each figure (each plate) may be a single image or a group of images (panels), and exactly 90 mm or 180 mm wide, 300 dpi, TIF file format.
- Group photos as a rectangular plate exactly 90 or 180 mm wide and ≤ 180 mm high for 2 column (180 mm wide) plates (eg, 3 photos wide x 2-4 photos high, or 1 wide x 2-3 high) or ≤ 210 mm for 1 column (90 mm wide) plates, with no white space between photos.
- Exclude scale bars (except from electron micrographs).
- Number each figure (each plate) in the order it is cited in the text. For figures containing multiple panels, label each panel (each image) using lower case letters sequentially from left to right. Place the letter in the bottom left corner: white or black 14-point Arial font, no border, include the letter but not the figure number.
- Figure legend: Include a title for the figure, then briefly describe what is shown in each panel, avoiding repetition. Disease name, organ, species, and stain should be mentioned.
- Supplemental Figures: number each plate as Supplemental Figure S1, etc. For each panel, include the letter (no number) in the lower left corner of the figure.

Reference format: key points

- Format reference and in-text citations according to the American Medical Association (AMA) Manual of Style.
- In text citations are listed in superscript after the punctuation as shown.^{1, 2-4, 8}
- Arrange the list of references alphabetically, numbered consecutively.
- Journal, ≤6 authors: Holman RT, Wiese HF, Smith AN. Essential fatty acid deficiency. *Am J Pathol.* 1976;95:255–257.
- Journal, >6 authors: Ortega J, Uzal FA, Walker R, et al. Zygomycotic lymphadenitis in slaughtered feedlot cattle. *Am J Pathol.* 2009;47(1):108–114.
- Book chapter: Sligh EG. Neutral lipid storage disease. In: Dyer WJ, ed. *Biochemistry of Lipids.* 5th ed. Academic Press; 1956:471–476.

Submission and Evaluation of Manuscripts

Submit all articles via Manuscript Central: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/vetpath>

If you do not have access to the necessary resources for online submission, please contact Jill Findlay, Managing Editor (vetpathjournal@outlook.com).

Authors are urged to consult a recent issue of the journal and follow the style therein, as this follows the 10th Edition of the AMA Manual of Style. *Veterinary Pathology* will also consider manuscripts prepared according to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (*New Engl J Med* 336:309– 315, 1997). Please indicate in your cover letter and as a footnote on the title page of your manuscript that you have prepared your manuscript in the Uniform Requirements format. Only original papers written in American English will be accepted. An [editing service](#) is available from the publisher, SAGE, including translation from Spanish, Portuguese, or Chinese. Use of this service does not guarantee acceptance of the paper by the journal.

Submission of a manuscript requires each author to have an [Open Researcher and Contributor identification](#) (ORCID iD). ORCID provides a unique and persistent digital identifier that distinguishes researchers from every other researcher, even those who share the same name, and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between researchers and their professional activities, ensuring that their work is recognized. The collection of ORCID IDs from corresponding authors is now part of the submission process of this journal. If you already have an ORCID ID, you will be asked to associate that to your submission during the online submission process. We also strongly encourage all co-authors to link their ORCID ID to their accounts in our online peer review platforms. It takes seconds to do: click the link when prompted, sign into your ORCID account and our systems are automatically updated. Your ORCID ID will become part of your accepted publication's metadata, making your work

attributable to you and only you. Your ORCID ID is published with your article so that fellow researchers reading your work can link to your ORCID profile and from there link to your other publications. If you do not already have an ORCID ID please follow this [link](#) to create one or visit our [ORCID homepage](#) to learn more.

You will be asked to provide contact details and academic affiliations for all co-authors via the submission system and identify who is to be the corresponding author. These details must match what appears on your manuscript. The affiliation listed in the manuscript 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 can be included in a manuscript note at the end of the paper. At this stage, please ensure you have included all the required statements and declarations and uploaded any additional supplementary files (including reporting guidelines where relevant).

Manuscripts submitted to *Veterinary Pathology* are evaluated by the editorial staff. If the manuscript is potentially suitable, peer reviewers are normally selected by the Associate Editor.

Veterinary Pathology operates a single-blind reviewing policy in which the reviewer's name is concealed from the submitting author.

As part of the submission process, the corresponding author will be asked to provide the names of peers who could be called upon to review your manuscript. Recommended reviewers should be experts in their fields and should be able to provide an objective assessment of the manuscript. Authors should not recommend reviewers who would have a conflict of interest, including (but not limited to) the following guidelines:

- The reviewer should have no prior knowledge of your submission.
- The reviewer should not have recently collaborated with or have a personal relationship any of the authors.
- Reviewer nominees from the same institution as any of the authors are not permitted.

Editors are not obliged to invite any recommended reviewers to assess your manuscript.

Authors may

request that specific individuals be excluded as reviewers, but the decision to use or not use opposed reviewers is made by the editors.

Acceptance of a manuscript for publication is determined by the Editor and Associate Editor based on the peer review, scientific merit, and value to readers. This decision may be made in consultation with other editorial staff and/or the Editorial Board. Appeals of decisions should be directed to the Managing Editor (Email: vetpathjournal@outlook.com).

When **re-submitting a revised manuscript**, upload a clean copy of the manuscript as the manuscript file and a marked-up copy as a Supplemental File (enabling editors and reviewers to see changes that were made from the original version). Authors must include a **response letter** that addresses each of the reviewer's and editor's comments, in order.

Reviewer's comments should be taken as constructive criticisms by experts in the subject area, and reviews lead to substantial improvement in the quality of scientific manuscripts. Nonetheless, authors are not obliged to make changes as suggested by the reviewers if a compelling rebuttal or counter-argument can be stated. After one or more reviews of the manuscript, the editorial staff will decide if the reviewer's and editors' comments have been satisfactorily addressed.

Editorial Policies

Scope and Criteria for Acceptance

Veterinary Pathology publishes basic and applied research involving domestic, laboratory, and zoo animals, wildlife, poultry, and other animals. The scope of the journal includes novel descriptions of pathologic changes, clinical pathology, and clinical-pathologic correlations for natural and experimental diseases of animals; investigations of the molecular and cellular mechanisms of disease (general pathology) and other aspects of pathogenesis; descriptions and use of animal models of human disease; and studies of pharmaceutical and environmental hazards.

Manuscripts considered for publication must:

1. have significant importance to animal and/or human health,
2. include new knowledge supported by valid data,
3. address disease mechanisms (pathogenesis, pathophysiology) or pathologic findings in important new or emerging diseases, or clinico-pathologic correlations, AND
4. be of sufficiently broad interest to be of substantial value to veterinary pathologists.

Thus, manuscripts should characterize previously unrecognized diseases, advance our ability to more accurately diagnose diseases, identify pathologic features that indicate prognosis or appropriate therapy, or provide an important comparative viewpoint. Case series must describe new diseases or provide novel insights into known diseases; those that report disease prevalence in a particular population of animals are not published unless significant novel findings are reported. Results of in vitro experiments or genetic analyses may be suitable if they reveal aspects of pathogenesis or advance knowledge in understanding of disease mechanisms, pathogenesis, pathologic diagnosis, or clinical relevance of pathologic findings. Descriptions of novel methods relevant to the practice of veterinary pathology are considered, as are papers that describe or validate animal models of human disease, enhance the translational study of animal models, or are relevant to animals used in

pharmacologic studies. Manuscripts describing normal anatomy or molecular data in normal tissues are not within the journal scope.

Veterinary Pathology is the official journal of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, the European College of Veterinary Pathologists, and the Japanese College of Veterinary Pathologists. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for the editorial content of the journal—including peer-reviewed manuscripts—and the timing of its publication. The aforementioned Colleges do not interfere with the recruitment, evaluation or editing of individual scientific manuscripts submitted to the journal, but they do contribute to the strategic direction of the journal.

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, acquisition of data or analysis, and interpretation of data,
2. drafted the article or revised it critically for important intellectual content, and
3. approved the version to be published. Please refer to the [ICMJE Authorship guidelines](#).

Research Ethics, Ethical Treatment of Animals, and Consent of Animal Owners

Submitted manuscripts should conform to the [ICMJE Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#).

Studies involving live animals (or samples that were obtained from live animals for the purpose of the study) must be approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). In the Methods section of the manuscript, state the full name and institution of the IACUC, in addition to the approval number. Furthermore, studies must be carried out in accordance with all applicable institutional, local, and national guidelines and laws. These guidelines may include, but are not solely limited to, the National Institutes of Health's *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, which can be obtained from the [Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare](#), the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching, available from the [Federation of Animal Science Societies](#), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Manuscripts may be rejected if the editors suspect unnecessary or unacceptable animal suffering, even if IACUC approval was provided.

Studies involving samples or records that are owned by the author's institution (such as archived samples owned by a diagnostic laboratory) may not require IACUC approval or informed consent of the animal's original owners, depending on the requirements of the institution and local laws. In such circumstances, the journal does not require a statement of IACUC approval or informed owner consent. Authors must ensure that they have obtained appropriate permission from the institution or individuals who own the samples or records, prior to submitting a manuscript that involves analysis of those samples.

For studies in which samples, data, or photographs are collected from privately owned animals (such as client-owned animals), please state in the Methods whether written or verbal informed owner consent was obtained, or include a statement explaining why such consent was not necessary. Do not submit the actual written informed consent with your article, as this breaches confidentiality. As mentioned above, such consent may not be necessary if ownership of diagnostic specimens is transferred to the author's institution. If research participants (such as animal owners) received compensation or were offered any incentive for participating in the study, this must be stated.

Reports that include surveys of human subjects must include a statement that the survey was approved by an institutional ethics board. In the Methods section of the manuscript, state the full name and institution of the research ethics board, in addition to the approval number.

Please also refer to the [ICMJE Recommendations for the Protection of Research Participants](#)

Medical research involving human subjects must be conducted according to the [World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki](#).

Availability of Supporting Research Data

Manuscripts reporting original research must include a statement of the data availability at the end of the Methods, which informs readers of whether the underlying data will be made available or not, and if so the location at which readers can access the data (and, when relevant, the date when the data will be made available and any restrictions on availability). This statement may take the following form: *The data analyzed in this study are / are not available as Supplemental Materials* (or by stating the name of the repository, permanent weblink, request to the author, etc.).

Authors are strongly encouraged to include detailed tables of individual-animal raw data as Supplemental Materials, in an effort to promote transparency and openness in communication of scientific findings, to allow readers increased confidence in the findings, to promote the visibility of the article, and to provide case series data as reference information to the scientific community.

At SAGE, we are committed to facilitating openness, transparency and reproducibility of research. Where relevant, The Journal encourages authors to share their research data in a suitable public repository subject to ethical considerations and where data is included, to add a data accessibility statement in their manuscript file. Authors should also follow data citation principles. For more information please visit the [SAGE Author Gateway](#), which includes information about SAGE's partnership with the data repository Figshare.

Duplicate or Related Publication, and Plagiarism

Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in *Veterinary Pathology*. Manuscripts submitted to the journal must not be under consideration for another journal, nor should manuscripts of similar form or with substantially similar content have been submitted, accepted, or published elsewhere. In the cover letter accompanying the manuscript, the author must disclose to the editor all submissions and previous reports that might be regarded as prior, duplicate, or related publication of the same or similar work, along with a statement of how the submitted and prior works differ. Copies of such material should be included with the submitted paper, as Word or PDF files that are uploaded as supplemental information files. Failure to notify editors of substantially similar previously published work would normally result in rejection of the manuscript.

As part of the submission process you will be required to warrant that you are submitting your original work, that you have the rights to the work and that you have obtained and can supply all necessary permissions for materials used in the study and for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you, 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. Please see guidelines on [prior publication](#).

Studies forming a novel investigation of previously published case material must clearly state the relationship to the prior work. In circumstances in which the manuscript predominantly represents material already published, please contact the editor to determine if sufficient new material is presented to warrant publication. A poster or oral presentation at a conference (if the published abstract is less than 350 words), or publication of findings in a thesis as part of a graduate degree, are not normally considered to interfere with publication of the same material as a peer-reviewed paper.

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journal's author archiving policy. If your paper is accepted, you must include a link on your preprint to the final version of your paper.

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Conflict of Interest Policy: Authors

Authors should state any potential conflicts of interest at the time of submission of the manuscript. Such information will not alter established editorial and review policies but will assist the editorial staff in avoiding any potential conflicts that could give the appearance of a biased review.

Financial support. To comply with the guidance for Research Funders, Authors, and Publishers issued by the Research Information Network (RIN), *Veterinary Pathology* requires all Authors to acknowledge their funding in a consistent fashion under a separate heading. Please visit [Funding Acknowledgements](#) on the SAGE Journal Gateway to confirm the format of the acknowledgment text in the event of funding or state in your acknowledgments that: "This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors." This section is completed during the process of online submission of the manuscript. If those who provided financial support had a role in the research or its publication, this role should be stated. If the study evaluates a commercial or candidate pharmaceutical product or medical device, the authors must disclose support in a cover letter when the manuscript is submitted for initial review, unless the association of the author with the sponsoring company is obvious. The editor will hold such information in confidence. If the manuscript is accepted for publication, the editor will discuss with the authors how such information is to be communicated to the reader.

Financial interest. Authors must disclose in the submission letter as well as in the "Declaration of Conflicting Interests" any financial interest (including employment, consultancies, and honoraria) in a company (or its competitor) that produces or benefits

from a product under discussion, or a diagnostic test or therapy of a disease relevant to the manuscript. Authors must provide detailed information about all relevant financial interests, activities, relationships, and affiliations, including but not limited to employment; affiliation; funding and grants received or pending; consultancies; honoraria or payment; speakers' bureaus; stock ownership or options; expert testimony; royalties; donation of medical equipment; or patents planned, pending, or issued. The "Declaration of Conflicting Interests" section is completed during the process of online submission of the manuscript.

Examples of published Conflict of Interest statements:

- Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Dr Jones reported serving as a paid consultant to Wyler Laboratories. Dr Jacques owns stock in Wyler Laboratories. Drs Smith and Brown reported no financial interests.
[Or: Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.]
- Funding/Support: This study was funded in part by Wyler Laboratories.

Publication of papers dealing with a commercial or candidate pharmaceutical product or medical device or diagnostic test does not convey or imply an endorsement by the journal *Veterinary Pathology* or the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, the European College of Veterinary Pathologists, or the Japanese College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Conflict of Interest Policy: Reviewers

Potential reviewers of all manuscripts submitted to *Veterinary Pathology* should disclose any potential conflicts of interest they may have before agreeing to review a manuscript and disqualify themselves from a specific review if necessary.

Conflicts of interest include work at the same institution, current collaborative research, co-authorship in the past 5 years, close personal relationships, or competing business or academic relationships with any of the authors of the manuscript. Such associations or relationships may not disqualify a potential reviewer; however, if a reviewer is concerned about a possible conflict, the circumstances should be discussed with the editorial staff. We expect that reviewers with a substantial conflict of interest will disqualify themselves from reviewing a manuscript.

More information as well as general Instructions to Reviewers is on the [journal website](#) and on the [publisher's website](#).

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To facilitate this, it is essential that the corresponding author indicates that their work is Wellcome Trust funded when they submit their work by selecting the relevant FundRef ID in the manuscript submission.

SAGE audits the funding status of all of our Open Access articles on a regular basis. If for any reason the correct process has not been followed, SAGE undertakes to make any required adjustments in a timely manner.

These commitments also apply to APCs paid for by all other partners of the Charity Open Access Fund (COAF): Arthritis Research UK, Bloodwise, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Parkinson's UK.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Studies that use AI-based automated image analysis must follow the Reporting Guidelines for AI-based Automated Image Analysis (AIA) in the Reporting Guidelines section and upload the completed 9-point checklist as Supplemental material.

Veterinary Pathology follows the Committee on Publication Ethics' (COPE) position on the use of artificial intelligence, including large language models, in publications. In brief, artificial intelligence tools cannot serve as an author because they cannot take responsibility for the submitted work, manage copyright agreements, or declare the presence or absence of conflicts of interest. It is the author's responsibility to ensure the accuracy and integrity of all components of the manuscript. This includes the accuracy, validity, and integrity of the scientific data, the accuracy and originality (absence of plagiarism) of the text, and the accuracy and correct use of citations throughout the manuscript. Any use of artificial intelligence tools in the conduct of experiments or any part of manuscript preparation,

including grammatical tools, must be disclosed in the Materials and Methods, or a similar section of the manuscript. [Click here to view Sage's AI policy and other recommendations.](#)

General Information for All Types of Manuscripts

Accessibility Guidelines

Authors should familiarize themselves with [Sage's Accessibility Guidelines](#) to ensure their manuscripts meet recognized accessibility standards.

Margins and Fonts

Electronic text files should be submitted as Word files. Manuscripts should be prepared using Arial 12-point font. Margins on all sides should be at least 25 mm (1 inch), with no right justification.

All sections of the manuscript should be double-spaced. Every page should be numbered. Add continuous line numbers (in Word: Layout tab—Text layout—Line numbers—Continuous).

Arrangement of Sections

There are more specific guidelines for full-length manuscripts, brief communications, and case reports; however, the general arrangement of the sections of the manuscript is as follows:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction (untitled; no heading is included)
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgements
- Declaration of conflicting interests
- Funding
- Authors' Contributions
- References
- Figure legends
- Tables (submit as separate files)

Reporting Guidelines (for tumor prognosis studies, studies using animals, etc.)



Reporting guidelines for manuscripts on tumor prognosis and markers of tumor behavior are available here: [/pb-assets/cmscontent/VET/VetPathChecklist_ReportingGuidelines_TumorPrognosisManuscripts-1641237723493.docx](#). When submitting the manuscript, please upload this checklist to indicate the manuscript line numbers corresponding to the 10 items a-j.

Where relevant, authors should consult published standards for minimum information about reporting animal studies ([ARRIVE guidelines](#)), diagnostic accuracy ([STARD](#)), [experiments using proteomics \(MIAPE\)](#) or quantitative real-time PCR ([MIQE](#)), and randomized clinical trials ([CONSORT](#)).

Reporting Guidelines for AI-based Automated Image Analysis (AIA)

Authors whose studies use artificial intelligence–based automated image analysis of microscopic or other pathology images must follow the reporting guidance in [Reporting guidelines for manuscripts that use artificial intelligence–based automated image analysis in Veterinary Pathology](#) and **submit the completed 9-point checklist as Supplemental material** at submission.

- **What to do:**

1. Consult the article and its 9-point checklist when drafting your manuscript.
2. Upload the checklist as a **Supplemental file** labeled “AIA Reporting Checklist.”
3. In **Materials and Methods**, include a brief statement indicating that the AIA reporting checklist has been completed and uploaded (e.g., “The study adheres to the Veterinary Pathology AIA reporting guideline; the completed 9-point checklist is provided as Supplemental Table Sx.”).

- **Scope:**

The checklist primarily addresses AI-based automated image analysis for microscopic images but may be adapted to other modalities.

- **Data & reproducibility:**

To promote transparency and reproducibility, authors are **strongly encouraged** to provide access to training/validation data, source code, and (where appropriate) trained model files, or to state clearly how these resources can be accessed (see **Availability of supporting research data**).

Abbreviations and Nomenclature

Abbreviations should be intuitive, kept to a minimum, only for words used ≥ 5 times in the manuscript, and defined at their first mention within the body of the article; for example, “iron-specific enolase (NSE).” Avoid abbreviations in the abstract. Abbreviations used in figures are spelled out in full in a footnote.

Abbreviations used in figure legends should be defined once in each plate of figures.

For anatomic terminology, use the English equivalents of terms used in [Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria and Nomina Histologica Veterinaria](#). Eponymous names are not used by NAV or NHV (that is, anatomic structures are not named by those who first described them).

Names of infectious agents should follow published standards for viruses ([ICTV, International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses](#)), bacteria ([List of prokaryotic names with standing in nomenclature](#), or [Bacterial nomenclature up-to-date](#)) and fungi ([Species Fungorum](#) or [Mycobank](#)). Bacterial names (genus and species) are italicized (*Mannheimia haemolytica*). When referring to virus particles or the viral agent causing a disease, the virus names are written in lower case (except for those which are a proper name) and are not italicized (bovine herpesvirus-1, West Nile virus) except when referring generally to the concept of the taxonomic grouping (see [guidance from ICTV](#)).

SI (International System of Units) units of measurement must be used when applicable, including for laboratory data (if needed, U.S.-conventional units may be also included in parentheses). U (enzyme units) are preferred for expression of enzymatic activity.

For listing the genetic strains of mice, use the correct strain/stock/line designation available from the company providing the mice (for example, [Mouse Genome Informatics, Jackson Laboratory](#)). Disease names should be those in generally accepted use.

Use of Case Numbers

Number cases starting with case 1 regardless of your particular numbering system. Laboratory case numbers should not be used. Include case numbers in all sections of the manuscript where the cases are described or discussed (eg, case 1–10, case 2, 3, and 5).

Title Page

The first page should include:

- the full title of the paper
- the full name of each author (eg, first name, middle initials if needed, last name)
- the names and locations of the institutions where the work was conducted, with the authors' initials in parentheses after the appropriate institution; for example: Tokyo University (SH, TK).
- the address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address of the corresponding author.

Authors should create concise, informative and descriptive titles that clearly inform readers of the content of the manuscript. Titles should, where relevant, include the key aspects describing the nature of the work such as the species of animal, name of the disease, specific

molecules or cells, disease mechanism, pathogenesis, or the clinical-pathologic correlation that is the focus of the work. Titles that focus on the subject of the work are generally more effective than those based on the methods.

Abstract

The abstract should be informative rather than descriptive, and 250 words or less (≤ 150 words for Brief Communications and Case Reports). The abstract should briefly summarize the rationale and methods for the study, but most of the abstract should be a detailed summary of the findings and their significance. Absolute numbers of subjects (either animals or tissue samples) should be given with the percentage in parentheses (eg, “75/250 tissues (30%) stained positively”, but do not state the percentage if the denominator is less than 10). The species of animal, the number of animals studied, the organ system or tissue evaluated, the technology or methods used, and the disease process should be mentioned in the abstract, as well as alternative names for the disease or causative agent when relevant. Abstracts of review papers should name the topics covered and provide a summary of the main content, rather than simply stating the objectives of the review.

Keywords

Identify key words (up to 119 characters with spaces) and place them after the abstract in alphabetic order. Where possible, use terms from the [medical subject headings \(MeSH\) list](#) of the U.S. National Library of Medicine. The species of animal, the organ system or tissue studied, the technology or methods used, and the disease process should be listed, as well as alternative names for the disease or causative agent when relevant, and other appropriate terms likely to be used by those conducting an internet search. Where possible, these keywords should be repeated in the abstract.

Tables

Tables are used to present key comparisons, summarized data, and selected information of major importance to the outcome of the study. In contrast, the following should be included only as Supplemental Tables: individual-animal data for >20 animals, raw data, data of lesser importance to the study's conclusions, or large data tables that do not fit on a single page of the printed journal.

Tables should be submitted as separate Word or Excel files, not as part of the main document. Tables must be editable and cannot be embedded images in a Word document. Tables are named in the order that they are cited in the text (Table 1, Table 2, etc.).

Table must fit on a single page of the printed journal and must not contain more than 130 characters (including spaces) per row. Larger tables may be included as Supplemental Materials. The title of the table should be complete so that the reader is able to understand

the content without reference to the text; the title may be more than one sentence. All parts of a table must be double-spaced, set in full-size type, left-justified, and sentence case. Omit all vertical lines from the table format. The contents of cells within a column should be balanced to avoid disparity in the amount of text. Empty cells are not permitted; use n/d or n/a if the analysis was not done or not applicable, respectively. Rows or columns with identical values should be omitted and mentioned as a footnote or in the text.

Footnotes are designated by superscript letters in order of presentation within the table (aThis is the note for the first notation in the table. bThis is the second note.). A note that applies to the table as a whole should be located at the end of the table title with a superscript letter a (Table Title^a). All abbreviations are included in a single footnote, and not shown by a superscript letter.

Figures

The style requirements for figures changed in 2022; earlier articles may differ from that described below.

Image file format. Images should be TIF files with a resolution of 300 pixels per inch for color and 600 pixels per inch for black and white. The image mode for color figures is RGB, and for black and white figures is Grayscale.

Grouping of images into figures. Each figure (each plate) may be a single image or a group of images (panels; see Fig 1). Figures must form a perfect square or rectangle with edges of individual images directly apposed and no white space between or around images. Do not add a border around images; white borders are added later by the publisher. Plates must be exactly 90 or 180 mm wide (1 or 2 columns, respectively) and no more than 180 mm high for 2 column (180 mm wide) plates or 210 mm high for 1 column (90 mm wide) plates. Effective methods of presentation include plates that are single images, 2 or 3 images wide (180 mm) by ≤ 4 images tall (≤ 180 mm), or 1 image wide (90 mm) by 2 or 3 images tall (≤ 210 mm).

Figure numbers and letters. Number each figure (each plate) in the order it is cited in the text (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc.). For figures containing multiple panels (eg, Fig 1 below), label each panel (each image) using lower case letters (a, b, c, etc.) sequentially from left to right; place the letter in the bottom left corner in white or black 14-point Arial font with no border, and do not include the figure number.



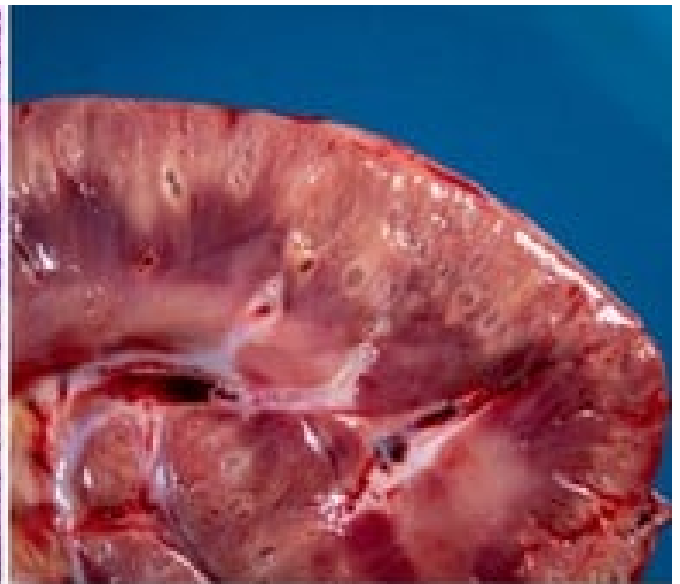
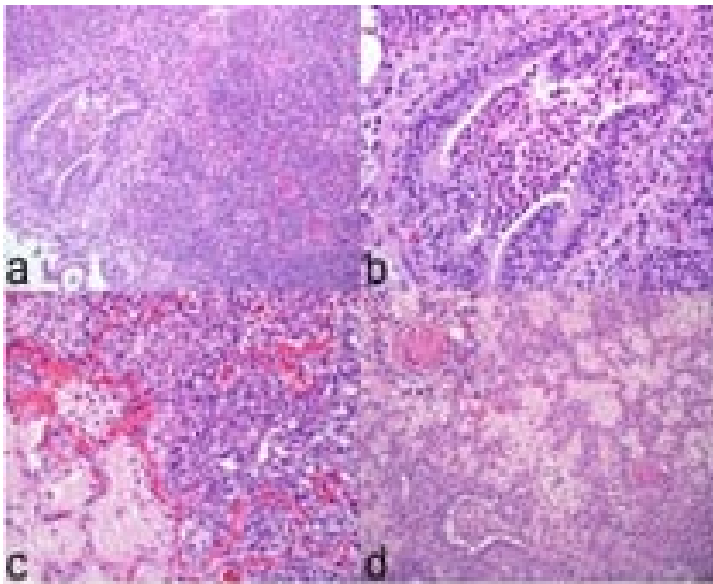


Figure 1 (multiple panels, a-d)

Figure 2 (single panel)

Do not use scale bars in gross, histologic, or cytologic images, except in rare cases where their use is critical to the understanding of the image; justification for their use must be included in the cover letter. If required, the bar or scale should be about 1 cm long, placed in the lower right of the image, and its equivalent value (10, 25, 100 μm , etc.) given in the legend, never on the image itself. Scale bars should be included in electron micrographs.

If needed, histologic photos may include a rectangular inset in one corner, such as a higher magnification.

Photographic quality and modifications. Gross and light microscopic images must be in color. Correct anatomic orientation should be maintained; for instance, the surface of the skin should be at the top of the figure, and where possible gross photos should be taken with the head to the right (but the orientation of existing photos must not be flipped).

Photos of microscopic lesions must not contain photographic or tissue artefacts. The images must be evenly lit, and backgrounds of photomicrographs must be white. Gross images should be presented against a clean, uniform, evenly colored background. Before the images are submitted, unacceptable backgrounds (grass, surgery drapes and other textured cloth, rulers, necropsy numbers, etc.) must be removed or the figure prepared with a uniform background of a suitable color.

Image modification or enhancement is acceptable if applied to the entire image, such as changing the brightness, contrast, or color balance. It is acceptable to modify the background of specimen photos. Changing a localized area of the tissue or lesion is not normally considered acceptable; it is essential that modifications do not affect the veracity of what is shown, and the image submitted must match the appearance of the real specimen.

For graphs, the text labels should be in Arial font, at sufficient size to be easily read in the published size of the figure.

Cost of color figures. Authors are allowed two free color plates (that is, two color pages up to 180 x 180 mm), and the cost of remaining plates will be the responsibility of the authors. The cost for each additional color plate will be US \$250. The author will be billed directly by SAGE.

Obtaining permission to publish reprinted material, including reprinting figures from published papers, is the responsibility of the corresponding author.

Figure Legends

Each figure must have a legend. Figure legends should be placed in a separate section at the end of the manuscript within the main Word document, and this section must not contain embedded figures. When uploading figure files to Manuscript Central, please do not upload the individual figure legends directly (leave this option blank).

Information described in the legend must be clearly visible in the photo; do not describe other findings of the study that are not visible in the photo. For gross and microscopic images, the legend should briefly describe the observations rather than providing only a morphologic diagnosis. Abbreviations used in figure legends should be defined once in each plate of figures.

Figure legends should be concisely written. Gross and histopathology images must mention the diagnosis, organ, and species (and the stain used for histology images). Recommended styles are as follows.

*Single image: **Figure 1.** Piloleiomyosarcoma, skin, cat. Spindle cells are arranged in uniform bundles with low cellularity, atypia, and mitotic activity. Case 11. Hematoxylin and eosin.*

*Multiple images of 1 diagnosis, style 1: **Figure 1.** Plasma cell tumor, skin, cat. **a)** Central aggregate of amyloid with peripheral neoplastic plasma cells. Case 3. Hematoxylin and eosin (HE). **b)** Neoplastic plasma cells have hyperchromatic nuclei, coarsely clumped chromatin, anisokaryosis, and binucleation. Case 7. HE. **c)** The amyloid stains red-orange with Congo red. Case 8. **d)** Amyloid is birefringent after Congo red staining (viewed with polarized light). Case 8.*

*Multiple images of 1 diagnosis, style 2: **Figure 1.** Infectious laryngotracheitis, chicken. Immunohistochemistry for gallid alphaherpesvirus 1. Immunolabeling is present in epithelial cells of the trachea (**a**), conjunctiva (**b**), bronchus including intraluminal necrotic material (**c**, arrow), and parabronchi (**d**).*

*Multiple images on a single theme: **Figure 1.*** Histopathologic features of rhombencephalitis in ruminants with listeriosis. Hematoxylin and eosin (HE). **a)** Midbrain, cow. An early lesion contains a small aggregate of neutrophils and microglial cells (arrowheads). **b)** Midbrain, sheep. An acute lesion contains neutrophils and necrotic neurons (arrowhead). **c)** Medulla oblongata, cow. A subacute lesion contains macrophages and lymphocytes but few neutrophils. **d)** Medulla oblongata, cow. A chronic lesion contains multinucleated giant cells (arrowheads).

*Multiple images with different diagnoses: **Figure 1.*** Reproductive tumors in Asian elephants. **a)** Leiomyoma, uterus. The myometrium is distorted by numerous variably sized masses. **b)** Anaplastic sarcoma, pelvic inlet. The mass contains spindlyloid neoplastic cells with indistinct borders that are arranged in loose streams. Hematoxylin and eosin (HE). **c)** Primitive neuroectodermal tumor, uterus. Neoplastic cells are arranged in sheets and trabeculae with frequent rosettes. HE.

Figure legends should not include information about the original magnification or magnification factors.

For illustrations of other laboratory data such as graphs and photos of gels, figure legends should briefly summarize the methodology and indicate the important findings where necessary, at a level of detail that allows the reader to understand the data being presented. However, the text of the materials and methods or the results should not be repeated.

Supplemental Figure legends should be submitted in a separate Word file.

Citation of Figures and Tables in the Manuscript Text

Figures and tables are numbered by the order they are cited in the text. For example, the first figure cited in the text is Figure 1, the second cited is Figure 2, etc.

Notes in the text (eg. the manufacturer name [omit the location], or personal communications) are put in parentheses at the appropriate location within the text.

Footnotes are used only for tables and are not used in the body of the text.

Acknowledgements

All contributors who do 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, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests



State any potential conflicts of interest such as those related to financial support for the study or a financial interest in the study outcomes or product being tested (see also the above section “Conflict of Interest Policy”). If there are none, state: “The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Editorial Board Member Disclosure

In addition to standard conflict of interest disclosures, authors who are members of the Editorial Board of *Veterinary Pathology* must explicitly disclose this role when submitting a manuscript to the journal. Transparency regarding editorial affiliations helps maintain trust in the peer review process and supports the integrity of the scientific record. Editorial Board members who submit manuscripts must include a statement confirming that they had **no involvement in the peer review or editorial decision-making process** for their own submission. This disclosure should be included as part of the standard *Declaration of Conflicting Interests* statement that should be included on the title page.

Examples:

- Author [Full Name] is a member of the Editorial Board of *Veterinary Pathology* and has no further conflicts to declare. The author did not take part in the peer review or decision-making process for this submission.
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Funding

List the sources of funding for the study (see also the above section “Conflict of Interest Policy”). If there was none, state: “The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Authors' Contributions

Using the authors' initials, state each author's contribution to the manuscript. The recommended styles are as follows:

DLB, JFG, and MLK designed and performed the experiments; BRC contributed to the experimental design; DLB, BRC, and YX performed histologic evaluations; FTL performed statistical analysis; the manuscript was written by DLB and BRC with contribution from the other authors.

References

Only published materials or material that has been accepted for publication should be listed in the References section. In the case of accepted articles that are not yet available online, a copy of the letter of acceptance and the manuscript itself should be provided; these are uploaded as supplementary files, for viewing by the editorial staff and reviewers. Personal communications and personal observations should be used sparingly and cited in parentheses in the text (eg, JB Williams, personal communication).

In the text, citations should be in superscript without parentheses. Citations should be placed after periods and commas, but before colons and semicolons (eg, Previous studies have shown that mice are good models of this disease.^{1,7,9–11}).

The reference list should be number consecutively according to the order they are cited in the text. Journal abbreviations should be those used in PubMed.

- **Article in a journal, ≤6 authors:** Holman RT, Wiese HF, Smith AN. Essential fatty acid deficiency. *Am J Pathol.* 1976;95:255–257.
- **Article in a journal, >6 authors (list the first 3, then et al.):** Ortega J, Uzal FA, Walker R, et al. Zygomycotic lymphadenitis in slaughtered feedlot cattle. *Am J Pathol.* 2009;47:108–114.
- **Supplement in a journal:** Nardley HJ. Sterols and keratinization. *Br J Dermatol.* 1969;81(Suppl 2):29–42.
- **Chapter in a book (for which each chapter has a different author):** Sligh EG. Neutral lipid storage disease. In: Dyer WJ, ed. *Biochemistry of Lipids.* 5th ed. Academic Press; 1956.
- **Book (for which the entire book has the same authors):** Modlin J, Jenkins P. *Decision Analysis in Planning for a Polio Outbreak in the United States.* Pediatric Academic Societies; 2004.
- **Digital references:** Tseng V. Effect of noise reduction methods in the ICU on sleep quality. UC Irvine. June 8, 2016. Accessed August 17, 2016. <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/190551hq>
- **Preprints:** Bloss CS, Wineinger NE, Peters M, et al. A prospective randomized trial examining health care utilization in individuals using multiple smartphone-enabled biosensors. Preprint. Posted online October 28, 2015. bioRxiv 029983. doi:10.1101/029983
- **References for data repositories and data:** HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee. Human Gene Nomenclature database search engine. Accessed March 14, 2018. <http://www.genenames.org>

Supplemental material is published electronically on the journal website and does not appear in the print version of the journal but is readily accessed from the journal's website (from the citation of the paper and from the table of contents). In general, information that is necessary to understand and provide validity to the study (ie, information used by most readers) is included in the main part of the manuscript, whereas information that is needed only for detailed analysis and critique (ie, information to a small number of readers) should be moved to supplemental materials. By so doing, this can remove distractions, thereby making the paper easier to read and focusing readers' attention on the key outcomes of the study. Information that should be included in Supplemental Materials and not in the main text of the paper includes:

- Tables describing semi-quantitative scoring systems, unless the scoring system is a main outcome of the study.
- Details of the methods that would be needed to replicate the findings or fully describe the methods, but are not needed for readers to understand the work that was done.
- Tables of individual-animal data that are large or include >20 animals.
- Tables containing large amounts of text or are too large to be printed in portrait orientation on one page. Tables must not have more than 130 characters (including spaces) per row.
- Detailed tables of data that are adequately summarized in the text or are included for completeness or archiving of data but not needed to understand the main outcome of the study.
- Additional photographs of lesions, or videos.

Reference to each supplemental material should be made in the main text of the paper (eg. Supplemental Figure S1, Supplemental Table S2, etc.), and their legends/titles should be labeled in the same way.

Supplemental Materials should be submitted in the format for publication because they are not type-set or edited by the publisher and are not provided with the page proofs.

For Supplemental Figures, number each plate as Supplemental Figure S1, S2, etc. For each panel, include the letter (no number) in the lower left corner of the figure. Figure size and formatting are as described above; submit as TIF files. Begin the legend with the figure name (Supplemental Figure S1). Supplemental figures legends are grouped and submitted as a separate Word document.

Supplemental tables should be single-spaced and may include borders as needed for clarity; the layout should be as published. Large tables of data may be posted online as an Excel file rather than a pdf file; please notify the editor of such requests.

Full Length Manuscripts

Full-length manuscripts contain the following sections, in order: Introduction (untitled; no heading is included), Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, References, and Figure Legends. Logical subheadings (but not sub-subheadings) may be used for groups of ≥ 2 paragraphs. Tables should be uploaded to Manuscript Central as separate Word or Excel files, and Supplemental Figure legends should be grouped and uploaded in a separate Word file.

Titles should be concise and clearly inform readers of the content of the manuscript, with important words placed near the beginning of the title. Titles should, where relevant, include the key aspects describing the nature of the work such as the name of the disease, specific molecules or cells, and animal species that is the focus of the work. Titles that focus on the outcome of the work are generally more effective than those based on the methods. Reviews should include the word “review” in the title and keywords.

The Abstract should be informative rather than descriptive, and 250 words or less. The abstract should briefly summarize the rationale and methods for the study, but most of the abstract should be a detailed summary of the findings and their significance. Absolute numbers of subjects (either animals or tissue samples) should be given with the percentage in parentheses; for example, “75/250 tissues (30%) stained positively” (but, do not state the percentage if the denominator is less than 10).

The abstract should mention (as appropriate) the species of animal, the number of animals studied, the organ system or tissue evaluated, the technology or methods used, and the disease process, as well as alternative names for the disease or causative agent when relevant. Linnean nomenclature (eg. sugar glider, *Petaurus breviceps*) should be included in the abstract for all but common domestic species.

The Introduction may include a short summary of the disease or problem studied, a focused summary of relevant prior studies, the rationale for the investigation, and the specific objectives or hypotheses. The Introduction is not a comprehensive review of the disease or topic, but instead is focused on providing adequate background information for the reader to understand the study. The last paragraph of the introduction should normally include a clear statement of hypothesis or objectives of the study. The introduction should not describe the experimental approach, methodology, or results.

The Materials and Methods describe the selection of case material (including their provenance, and inclusion and exclusion criteria), the methodology at a level of detail allowing knowledgeable colleagues to repeat the study, and the statistical analysis. Where relevant, authors should consult published standards for minimum information about reporting animal studies ([ARRIVE guidelines](#)), indicators of tumor prognosis ([REMARK](#)),

diagnostic accuracy ([STARD](#)), experiments using proteomics ([MIAPE](#)) or quantitative real-time PCR ([MIQE](#)), and randomized clinical trials ([CONSORT](#)).

Manuscripts reporting original research must include a statement of the data availability at the end of the Materials and Methods, which informs readers of whether the underlying data will be made available or not, and if so the location at which readers can access the data (and, when relevant, the date when the data will be made available and any restrictions on availability).

This statement may take the following form: *The data analyzed in this study are / are not available as Supplemental Materials* (or by stating the name of the repository, permanent weblink, request to the author, etc.).

Results should not be exhaustive, but instead focused on the major findings of the study. The text should not repeat the findings listed in tables or figures, but instead describe a different aspect of the findings. Results that are not critical to the conclusions of the study (including large tables of individual animal data and scoring systems for semi-quantification of lesions) should be moved to Supplemental Materials. Summary data are reported as absolute numbers with percentages; eg, “immunolabeling in 15/20 cases (75%)” (but, do not state the percentage if the denominator is less than 10). Statistical results described in the text or figure legend should normally mention the method used and the number per group (eg, $P=0.015$, Student’s t- test, $n=12$ cases per group).

The Discussion often begins with a brief re- iteration of the main hypothesis or objectives and a summary of the main outcomes in relation to this rationale. Depending on the nature of the study, subsequent paragraphs may: (a) summarize the findings without repeating what was stated in the Results, (b) discuss the suitability or validity of the cases, methodology, or experimental system studied, (c) consider the possible interpretations of the data including corroboration or contradiction of the hypothesis,

(d) develop an argument in support of the favored interpretation, (e) compare the findings with that of prior studies, (f) address any important limitations of the study, and (g) report the implications and importance of the findings without excessive speculation.

The final paragraph of the discussion should summarize the major findings and practical recommendations based on the outcomes of the study. The methodology is not normally mentioned, but instead summarize the key findings of the paper that will be of value to readers. The conclusions should be stated specifically rather than as a generality, and they should not be speculative, but based on the factual outcomes of the study.

Brief Communications and Case Reports



Brief communications are used when the extent of the investigation or the findings do not warrant a full paper.

Collections of ≤ 3 cases are normally considered a case report rather than a case series. A case report must provide a novel pathologic description of substantial value to veterinary pathologists. The following are not usually sufficient for publication as a case report: a known entity in an unusual species of animal, a neoplasm in an unusual location, concurrent finding of two unrelated conditions in the same animal, the first occurrence of a disease in a geographic region, or novel findings of trivial importance or that do not provide substantial value to readers. Multiple-animal case series of such disease conditions are encouraged if they are novel and advance knowledge in pathologic diagnosis, clinical relevance of pathologic findings, or understanding of disease mechanisms.

Brief communications and case reports are limited to 4 pages of printed material: ≤ 1700 words in the body of the text, an abstract of ≤ 150 words, two plates of ≤ 8 figures total, no more than 1 table, and no more than 20 references. Additional information and photos, if relevant and of high quality, may be included as Supplemental Materials.

Brief communications and case reports should have only the following headings: Abstract, Acknowledgements, References, and Figure Legends. Headings are not used for Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion.

Abstracts for brief communications and case reports are limited to 150 words. For descriptions of >1 cases, the findings should be described in aggregate rather than as a series of individual case reports. Case reports focus on presenting the findings of the case and their interpretation and implications, not a review of the associated literature. The concluding paragraph should be a summary of the important novel features of the case.

Reviews

Authors are encouraged to discuss the content with editorial staff prior to writing review papers, to ensure the topic and scope are suitable for the journal. Reviews should include a title page, abstract, and key words as described above. The word “review” should be included in the title and keywords. Concise reviews focused on a narrowly defined topic are usually more effective than long reviews of a broad topic.

Diagnostic Challenge in Veterinary Pathology

The goal of “Diagnostic Challenge in *Veterinary Pathology*” (DCVP) is to provide continuing education to readers by presenting the diagnostic process for one or more cases of a particular disease, particularly in obtaining a definitive diagnosis in an otherwise challenging case or a case with multiple differential diagnoses. Straightforward cases with “classic” presentations and that only involves confirmation of a single top differential diagnosis are

discouraged. Reports may include single cases, multiple cases, or herd problems. Cases must involve veterinary pathology and may also include information relevant to other disciplines. It is important to understand that the aim of the DCVP is not to cloak a case report. Submissions for DCVP do not need to contain novel information, and diseases frequently encountered in the veterinary pathology diagnostic routine are encouraged. Although authors could focus on the evaluation and interpretation of clinical signs and pathologic changes in a particular case or situation, submissions emphasizing a discussion of the differential diagnoses and critical approaches to a final diagnosis, including the role of laboratory testing and further clinical investigation, will be given more thorough consideration. Inconclusive cases in which only differential diagnoses could be achieved may be considered if exceptionally well-crafted and informative. However, it is expected that most suitable reports will include a solid final diagnosis.

Submissions first will be considered by the editors. Those meeting the above criteria will be peer-reviewed as for other manuscripts.

Diagnostic Challenges should include a cover letter explaining the value of the report to readers, as well as a title page (no abstract), one plate of color figures, and no more than 10 references. Figures and their legends must follow the above instructions (see Figures and Figure Legends). Follow the Instructions to Authors for preparing the title page, figures, figure legends, and references. Do not include an abstract or keywords. Figure legends should mention the organ and species but are not required to state the diagnosis. The text must be ≤ 1400 words and normally uses the following headings:

- Clinical history, laboratory results, and gross findings
- Differential diagnoses (if applicable)
- Microscopic findings
- Further investigations and diagnosis
- Discussion

The text and figures should be structured to present the initial case information (which may include one row of figures, 90 or 180 mm wide by ≤ 60 mm high) that allows readers to consider the nature of the problem and differential diagnoses, and a subsequent discussion of the case that reveals the additional investigations, the diagnosis, and the discussion of the diagnostic process (and usually includes a second plate of figures, 90 or 180 mm wide by ≤ 180 mm high).

The article title should state the initial problem that is the basis for the diagnostic challenge, but not the final diagnosis. The title should begin with “Diagnostic Challenge in Veterinary Pathology: ...” (for example: “Diagnostic Challenge in Veterinary Pathology: Alopecic Crusting Dermatitis in a Goat”).

Submit Diagnostic Challenges via Manuscript Central:

(<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/vetpath>) and choose Diagnostic Challenge as the article type.

Meeting Reports

Veterinary Pathology does not normally publish meeting reports but encourages submission of review papers arising from topics presented at meetings and conferences.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are considered for publication provided they have not been submitted or published elsewhere. Letters must provide scientific or educational value to readers. Subject matter can include useful critique of recent articles in *Veterinary Pathology*, current medical issues, and scientific issues relevant to the ACVP, ECVP, and JCVP

Letters should be based on published references. Case descriptions, new unpublished data, or arguments promoting future research are not normally considered, unless they are of considerable timely significance. The suitability for publication is decided by the Editor.

Letters are submitted via the online system as described above. All individuals submitting a letter must sign or be willing to sign the letter, and they must provide their full names, titles, institutional affiliations, and addresses. The principal submitter should also provide telephone and fax numbers and an e-mail address. All individuals submitting a letter must disclose any financial associations or other possible conflicts of interest related to the letter.

Guest Editorials

Guest editorials are normally solicited from experts by editorial staff, and usually refer to a recently published paper in the journal. The objective is to highlight papers with particular novelty or impact, to provide additional insights and value to the paper, and to provide a second perspective on the findings that will enhance reader's understanding or appreciation of the findings. They should provide additional background or a concise review of the topic area, include insights and additional dimensions beyond those given in the accompanying paper, and explain the significance of the research findings or the current event. Guest editorials must not be simply a summary of the paper's methods and findings. Guest editorials are normally less than 1000 words, with no abstract or keywords, should be directed to a non-specialized audience, and are not normally peer-reviewed. Authors are encouraged to include figures.

Commentaries

Commentaries provide insight, perspective, and factually based opinion on a topic of current scientific interest to readers. A pre-submission inquiry to the editor is recommended.

Commentaries may or may not be peer- reviewed, depending on the nature of the content.

Image Challenge

Veterinary Pathology invites submission of original, high-quality gross, histology, or cytology images for consideration as an Image Challenge, along with a multiple choice question and answer. The aim is to share exceptional images and to help readers improve their knowledge. The Image Challenge is not a case report. It uses case-based images to illustrate and educate on a common theme. The primary criteria are 1) the condition is interesting, 2) the image shows a typical example, 3) readers must be able to formulate a diagnosis based on the single image without magnification, and 4) the image is of high quality. Images should show typical findings or common variants of known conditions rather than “once-in-a-lifetime” cases or atypical case presentations.

Each submission should include one original high-quality color image as a TIF file, and question and answer text submitted as a single Word file. One or 2 additional TIFF images may be used to support the answer. The image must be in sharp focus and clearly show the features described, and readers must be able to formulate a diagnosis based on the single image without magnification. The image should be 90 mm wide, 300 dpi, and RGB (not CMYK) image mode. Do not include the figure number in the lower left corner or a border. Images for questions should not have any annotations. If annotations (arrows, asterisks, etc.) are included in images for answers, please also send the same image without annotations. Do not include scale bars in gross or histologic images unless it is essential for diagnosis.

The multiple choice question should have 3-4 possible and viable answers. Indicate the species and anatomic location. The answer paragraph should be no more than 100 words and should highlight the distinguishing pathological features of the correct answer. The answer paragraph should also briefly mention why each other foil is incorrect. For each question, the name of a single contributor and their affiliation will be placed at the end of the answer. Unsuitable images will be returned; the publication of potentially suitable images may be delayed until a theme-based collection is assembled.

Contributors must agree to a non-exclusive grant of rights and a declaration of potential conflicting interests. Submissions must be original images and information that have not been published previously and are not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

For consideration, email the image, question, and answer to: vpimagechallenge@gmail.com. Image Challenges are submitted via this email address, not through the usual website for submission of manuscripts.

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corrections should be made directly or notified to us promptly. Authors are reminded to check their proofs carefully to confirm that all author information, including names, affiliations, sequence, and contact details are correct, and that Funding and Conflict of Interest statements, if any, are accurate. Please note that if there are any changes to the author list at this stage all authors will be required to complete and sign a form authorising the change.

Page proofs will be e-mailed to the author about 3 weeks from the date that the article was submitted to the publisher. Proofs should be checked carefully for typographical errors, mathematical errors, and any other necessary corrections. Please ensure that all tables and figures are correct, including their headers, content, and spacing and alignment. The journal editor will need to approve any substantial rewriting. These proofs are an opportunity to correct any errors that may have been introduced during the production process, not an opportunity for rewriting. In addition to journal editor approval, a fee of \$2 per line will be charged for extensive rewriting not due to SAGE error or request. Instructions for how to submit page proof corrections will be e-mailed with page proofs. Supplemental files are published online as submitted (they are not typeset or edited by the publisher) and are not included with the page proofs.

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