The Journal for the Association of Veterinary Students is a bi-annual publication distributed to all veterinary schools in the UK and Ireland. Produced on behalf of the Association of Veterinary Students and in partnership with the BVA and Vet Record. Alongside JAVS there is also JAVS-Lite, an issue targeted towards freshers giving advice and guidance as well as a welcome to the AVS.

This document has been prepared to answer some frequently asked questions regarding writing and submitting articles for JAVS, or for publication online on the AVS news website. For more information please email javseditor@gmail.com

FAQs:

What can my article be about?

Pretty much anything that is related to veterinary students, veterinary education, animals, medicine, global health, science, welfare politics etc. Opinions pieces, reviews of books/products/services, reports from symposia/talks/events/IVSA exchanges, food recipes for hungry students, official news from your vet society, call to arms for research project or initiative- all will be considered for print.

How long should my article be?

There is no right or wrong length for a submission, it depends on the topic and the aim of your piece. Aim for between 400-1000 words. Book reviews can be as short 350/400, and event reports can be >1000. Try to make your writing concise, informative and enjoyable to read. If you don’t enjoy writing it then other people won’t enjoy reading it.

What categories are there in JAVS?

This will change depending on the nature of submissions, but key categories are: EMS/Experiences- what have people been doing that will inspire/inform fellow students?
Opinion- share your thoughts on your course, Brexit’s impact on animal rights etc.

IVSA- exchanges, congress, symposia, trips and more

Welfare- mental and physical health, stress, support, mental health first aid; all important.

News/Informative- been somewhere? Learnt something? Share the news here.

Research- finished a project? Congrats to you now tell us more.

How should I submit the article?

Please email your work as a word document or similar with photos sent separately as png/jpeg in as high definition as possible. Please avoid taking photos from Facebook as they will be lower resolution. Please email with the subject line with your name and article title. It can be tempted to put the subject just as “JAVS article”, however when everyone does this it ceases to serve any use.

Will it get printed?

A decision on which articles are printed is made jointly by the JAVS editor and editors at the Vet Record. Most articles will be printed, and those that aren’t may be modified so they can be. Main reasons for not printing include may include but not limited to duplicated articles (e.g. if someone else went to the same conference and wrote a superior report on it), libel reasons (e.g. don’t do EMS with this guy for these reasons), partisan reasons (why my vet school is the best and everyone is awful). Those not printed may still be used online.

Should I reference?

It depends on your subject matter, but if you are discussing a specific law or paper or disease then please reference. Avoid plagiarising too please, the editor has neither the time nor the required level of sanity to check your work for plagiarising so please don’t.

Will there be edits made?

Almost certainly. Most edits are small, picking out the typos that we all make, some edits will be to reduce the word count and to improve the flow of writing. Any edits that are major will be checked with the author prior to publication.

Will it be published online?

All JAVS issues are published online. Some selected articles are chosen to be published as a standalone article and these will be shared on our social media platforms.

What do you need to know about me?

When submitting an article please state your name (as you would like it be printed), your year of study (as you identify, i.e. if you have intcalated and would like to be known as a 6th year go ahead), and your vet school. If submitting in an official capacity, for example SEVA rep, then please include this also.

Who can make a submission?

Anyone. Not a vet student? Doesn’t matter. Medics, bioveterinary students, biological students, horse physios etc. all of you are welcome to write in.
When can I make a submission?

The editor’s inbox is always open. Online articles will be published when appropriate and the final month of JAVS submissions is announced on social media and by your uni reps.

I have more questions, who do I ask?

Please email javeditor@gmail.com for more information, or find me at congress or sports to buy me a drink.