

How to complete the submission template for full cases

GENERAL GUIDANCE

The most difficult problem we face in review of manuscripts is poor language or grammar. It is a huge shame to reject articles because they are badly written when the message they contain is important. The language reflects the authors, their institution and the journal, and inevitably, presentation and style hugely influences the perception of the management of any case.

- Read the case presentation back to yourself. Is there a natural flow from presentation to resolution and follow-up? Are all decisions explained?

We accept reports concerning single animals, herds or flocks or other animals grouped or managed together. Don't be afraid to write about complications. They are universal and learning from each other's experience is key in veterinary medicine. Do discuss these with clarity so that all findings and management decisions are obvious. The audience are not reading to approve or disapprove, but needs to be in a position to make sense of the story. The discussion of pitfalls is the single biggest contribution to learning in case reports:

- unusual presentations of common cases
- successful novel approaches for dissemination
- grey areas in indications for treatment
- management challenges and ethical dilemmas
- near misses

TITLE OF CASE
You do not need to include "a case report" in the title – you may be cryptic if you wish
SUMMARY <i>This will be freely available online</i>
Up to 150 words summarising the case presentation and outcome We need a good flavour of the case – emphasise the learning points
BACKGROUND <i>Why you think this case is important – why did you write it up?</i>
Why is the case of interest to our readers? Is this a prevalent health problem? Is this a public health concern? Is there a clear message?
CASE PRESENTATION <i>Presenting features, clinical and environmental history</i>
The context of presentation including relevant features of ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did they present? • What is the relevant history of the individual and/or group? Why is this relevant? • Explain your findings and how they influenced your decisions • Were there any legal, social or financial considerations? • Was there a disease risk to people or other animals?
Do not use abbreviations for diseases or investigations

INVESTIGATIONS <i>If relevant</i>
All investigations that create a background (baseline) picture are relevant All investigations that are crucial to management decisions should be discussed fully Choose appropriate images and videos to illustrate your point
DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS <i>If relevant</i>
Please don't list these. What we want to see is how the final diagnosis is teased out. What are the consequences to management or treatment for the differential diagnoses?
For example A four year old Great Dane that presents with signs of pain, shock and abdominal distension may have gastric dilation with or without volvulus, intestinal volvulus, splenic torsion, abdominal effusion or haemorrhage. Particular historical details and investigations separate these diagnoses, and treatment of each is vastly different; indeed, treating one cause for the other may be detrimental. Discuss these and the pitfalls that may ensue.
TREATMENT <i>If relevant</i>
Include pharmacological and non-pharmacological, such as surgery, vaccination, changes in management, culling/euthanasia
OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP
Always include follow up data where you can; it gives readers a clear understanding of outcome The follow-up period should be defined Have there been any consequences to other animals?
DISCUSSION <i>Include a very brief review of similar published cases</i>
This is the opportunity to describe veterinary and ethical issues, animal and public health considerations, animal welfare and animal care.
LEARNING POINTS/TAKE HOME MESSAGES <i>3 to 5 bullet points</i>
THIS IS A REQUIRED FIELD These are the most crucial part of the case – what do you want readers to remember when seeing their own patients
REFERENCES
Include only relevant references including guidelines in Harvard style
FIGURE/VIDEO CAPTIONS
We do not have a limit on illustrations but choose only what illustrates your case most effectively We encourage <i>colour images</i> and <i>video files</i>

OWNERS'S PERSPECTIVE

This is an optional section to reflect the experience of the owner or keeper of the animal or herd and is intended to suggest lessons for future management of similar cases

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

In addition to the guidance in this template please read the [instructions to authors](#) online

You must satisfy yourself that you have complied with your professional responsibilities including maintaining client confidentiality as defined by the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct.

You, your practice or institution must be a subscriber to Veterinary Record Case Reports in order to submit. Subscribers can submit as many cases as they like, access all the published material, and re-use any published material for personal use and teaching without further permission.

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EXAMPLE OF A WELL PRESENTED CASE REPORT

[Feline sarcoptic mange in the UK. JI Hardy, MT Fox, A Loeffler, G Sinclair](#)