Prior Publication of Papers

The authors of papers submitted for publication in *Veterinary and Comparative Orthopaedics and Traumatology* are required to confirm that the manuscript has been submitted solely to this journal, and it is not published, in press, or submitted elsewhere. It is essential that the paper is an original contribution, and that it does not contain data that has been published elsewhere. This requirement is normal with all peer reviewed journals to avoid the problem of duplicate or dual publication.

Papers that are published in a foreign language journal may not be submitted for publication as an English translation in another journal as well. Furthermore, publication of full papers or data sets in non-peer reviewed society magazines or conference proceedings for example, may unwittingly constitute a previous publication. The editorial policy of VCOT is that abstracts of less than 250 words that contain only a summary of the findings of the study are not considered to be a prior publication. Therefore authors should ensure that ‘long abstracts’ submitted to a scientific meeting are not going to be published in the conference handbook or proceedings.

There are many things to consider regarding the avoidance of duplicate publication of data, and these points are discussed in more detail by me in a previous editorial in VCOT for the information of authors (1). Authors are also most welcome to contact me to discuss their own particular concerns about this issue.

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