**Narrative Review Submission Template**

Thank you for your interest in writing and submitting a Narrative Review to *Veterinary Evidence*.

**Purpose of a Narrative Review**

A Narrative Review provides a broad, critical overview of the literature on a veterinary topic. Unlike a Knowledge Summary, which answers a focused PICO question, a Narrative Review:

* Summarises and synthesises existing knowledge.
* Identifies themes, controversies, and knowledge gaps.
* Provides context for veterinary clinical practice, education, or future research.
* Offers balanced interpretation and critical discussion, not just description.

**Getting started**

Before writing or submitting your Narrative Review, please contact the [Editorial Office](https://veterinaryevidence.org/index.php/ve/about/contact) with your proposed topic. This step is essential to ensure:

1. The scope is appropriate for a Narrative Review rather than a PICO-based Knowledge Summary.
2. The topic is of importance to the veterinary community.
3. The proposed Narrative Review has not already been published, is not currently in preparation, and has not been submitted for consideration.

**Author guidance**

* Visit our [Author Hub](https://veterinaryevidence.org/index.php/ve/author-hub) and [Editorial Policy](https://veterinaryevidence.org/index.php/ve/editorial-policies) pages for more information on writing and submitting your paper.
* Always download the latest version of this template for each new submission, as updates may have been made.
* If you have any questions during the writing or submission process, contact the Editorial Office.
* **Word count:** Narrative Reviews are typically **4,000–6,000 words**, but flexibility is allowed depending on scope.
* Once you’ve submitted, please check your spam folder for updates, as some universities and organisations may block our emails due to their filters.

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| **Submission**  |

**Title of your Narrative Review**

A well-crafted title enhances the discoverability of your paper. Your title should:

* Be concise and descriptive (ideally 15 words or fewer).
* Clearly indicate the topic of the review.
* Include key terms to ensure relevance and searchability.

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**Keywo****rds**

Please provide up to 6 keywords that are aligned to the subject of the Narrative Review.

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|  **ABSTRACT** |

Word count: 250

[Please keep the structured abstract to 250 words maximum. Include keywords and/or phrases. Place key findings first. Please minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references in the abstract.

Provide a concise summary of the review including:

* Purpose and scope of the review.
* Sources of information.
* How was the information integrated, analysed and synthesised?
* Key themes, findings, or debates highlighted.
* Implications for practice, policy, or research.

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|  **INTRODUCTION** |

* Outline the topic and why it is important.
* Define the scope and aims of the review.
* Provide background or context for the reader.

Cite references in parentheses (Whiting et al., 2006) – see the reference section for more information.

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|  **METHODS**  |

Authors must adhere to [published reporting guidelines](https://veterinaryevidence.org/index.php/ve/Beginning-the-writing-process).

Although narrative reviews are not systematic reviews, authors must provide transparency by outlining:

* Databases and sources consulted.
* Search terms or themes used.
* Inclusion principles for selecting literature (e.g. peer-reviewed studies, grey literature, historical context).
* how was the information integrated, analysed and synthesised?
* Any limits on timeframe or language.

This section should be concise but allow readers to understand how the literature was identified.

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|  **Literature Synthesis** |

Organise the review into sections using subheadings. These may include:

* Historical developments.
* Current practices or approaches.
* Evidence supporting or contradicting different viewpoints.
* Emerging research or innovations.
* Challenges, controversies, or limitations in the evidence.

Use tables or figures where appropriate to summarise complex information.

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|  **DISCUSSION** |

* Provide a balanced synthesis of the evidence.
* Highlight strengths and weaknesses of existing research.
* Identify knowledge gaps and areas where further work is needed.
* Discuss implications for veterinary practice, education, or policy.

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|  **CONCLUSION** |

Word count: 100 words.

* Summarise the key insights from the review.
* Provide a clear take-home message for veterinary professionals.
* Suggest implications for clinical practice and/or priorities for future research.

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|  **ETHICAL APPROVAL AND INFORMED CONSENT** |

Authors are required to confirm that the appropriate ethical approval and informed consent have been obtained.

Ethical Approval

Where ethical approval has been obtained, please state the name of the approving body and the approval number / ID:

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Where ethical approval is not required, please specify why it was not required, cite the relevant guidelines or legislation where applicable.

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| Ethical approval was not required because… |

Informed consent

Authors must state that written informed consent was obtained for publication from anyone who may be identifiable (directly or indirectly) in this paper.

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| Informed consent was obtained / not required |

*Veterinary Evidence* may reject papers if there are ethical concerns and ethical approval or informed consent has not been granted.

Please [contact](https://veterinaryevidence.org/index.php/ve/about/contact) *Veterinary Evidence* if you are unsure or would like more information.

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|  **COMPETING INTERESTS AND DECLARATION FORMS** |

Conflict of Interest and Author Acknowledgement documents need to be completed and uploaded to Editorial Manager alongside every submission. You will not be able to progress with any submission unless these documents are uploaded. You will be asked for this as a required document at the point you upload your manuscript, these are separate to the submission as our peer review process is double-blind and they may identify you as an author.

You can download the documents here:

<https://veterinaryevidence.org/index.php/ve/forms>

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|  **REFERENCES** |

Always use the author-date system, otherwise known as Harvard system of referencing. This relies on brief parenthetical citations in the text that take the reader to the appropriate entry in the reference list. The reference list only contains those sources cited in the text. All references included in the reference list should exclusively be cited within the article.

The text citation should consist of just the author’s last name and year of publication. If the paper contains citations to works by different authors sharing the same last name, then their initials should be used to distinguish between them.

 (Smith, 2021)

 (Smith & Jones, 2021)

 (Smith et al., 2021) – do not italicise et al. where there are three authors or more

If the author’s last name appears in open text, it need not be repeated in parentheses, the date alone will suffice – According to Smith et al. (2021) dogs in…

Several references may be included within the same parentheses separated by a semi colon – (Smith et al., 2021; Jones & Morris, 1988; and Baker, 1984)

If there is more than one work by an author in a single year they are distinguished by lower-case letters appended to the year – (Smith, 2021a), (Smith, 2021b)

Citation of a work produced by a corporate body may use the name of the body, followed by the publication date. After the first citation instance, where the corporate body’s name should appear in full, subsequent citations to the same body may be abbreviated.

Citations to an anonymous work may use anon. followed by the publication date. Reference list entries are listed alphabetically. Authors initials should follow their last names. The year of publication should follow the author name(s). Journal titles should be in full and italicised. Please provide a DOI number where possible.

Journals:

Last name, First initial. (Year published). Article title. *Journal*. Volume(Issue), Page(s). DOI: DOI identifier

Examples –

Poole, A. (2021). ‘Don’t pee on that!’ Comparing environmental modification and medical management in cats with FIC. *Veterinary Evidence*. 6(1), 1–20. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18849/ve.v6i1.337>

Thomas, J., Marshall, S., Gormley, K., Conway, G. & Borgeat, K. (2021). Does medical or surgical treatment for aortic stenosis improve outcome in dogs? *Veterinary Evidence*. 6(2), 1–13. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18849/ve.v6i2.368>

Chapters in edited books:

Last name, First initial. (Year published). Chapter title. In: First initial. Last name, ed., *Book title,* 1st ed. City: Publisher, Page(s).

Websites:

Last name, First initial. (Year published). Page title. Available at: URL [Accessed Day Mo. Year].

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|  **WITHDRAWING A PAPER** |

Authors may request to withdraw a paper from the process. However, please consider the amount of time that editors and reviewers will have spent on the submission. Authors should discuss with us any reasons they may have for considering withdrawal, as we would like to do all we can to avoid the withdrawal of a paper and to prevent editorial / reviewer time from being wasted.

If authors decide to withdraw a paper, they should provide the editorial office with an explicit request to remove the manuscript from the system no later than after the first round of peer review. All authors must sign this letter and it should include detailed reasons for withdrawal.

*Veterinary Evidence* may consider withdrawing a paper from the submission process if there is evidence of misconduct. The outcome will be informed by [COPE guidance](https://publicationethics.org/). For more information, please contact the editorial office.

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|  **AUDIO SUMMARY** |

When your paper is accepted, we will contact you with a request for an Audio Summary.

An Audio Summary is a 3-minute overview of your Knowledge Summary. The purpose of it is to help listeners easily digest the main points of the Knowledge Summary so that they can implement the findings in practice.

See below for some points to help structure your audio clip:

1. Background – what question is the Knowledge Summary answering and why did you choose this question?
2. Please give an overview of what evidence there is and what the evidence says – what is the clinical bottom line?
3. And if appropriate – how could someone in practice could implement the recommendations of the Knowledge Summary?

Please feel free to adapt it as you see fit, but ensure the clip is no longer than 3 minutes.

You can email your clip as an MP4 or an MP3 to the Editorial Office: editor@veterinaryevidence.org

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|  SUBMITTING YOUR PAPER |

Once you have read the Author Guidelines and have completed your template, please upload it to our submission system: [www.editorialmanager.com/rcvskve](http://www.editorialmanager.com/rcvskve)

The editorial office will update you on your paper’s progress. If you have any queries, please contact *Veterinary Evidence* using the below contact information.

Publication policies

Authors are welcome to read[*Veterinary Evidence*’s editorial policies](https://veterinaryevidence.org/index.php/ve/about/editorialPolicies).

[**EBVM Learning**](http://www.ebvmlearning.org/)

EBVM learning is a resource that introduces the concepts of Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (EBVM) and aims to give you a foundation from which you can start to apply EBVM to your own veterinary work.

[**Guidance on Scientific Writing**](http://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/evidence-based-veterinary-medicine/ebvm-resources/tools-guidelines-and-checklists/#guidance)

[**Reporting guidelines**](http://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/evidence-based-veterinary-medicine/ebvm-resources/tools-guidelines-and-checklists/#reporting)

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|  CONTACT VETERINARY EVIDENCE |

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| Editorial Office: | editor@veterinaryevidence.org |
|  |  |
| Library Services: | library@rcvsknowledge.org |
|  | +44 020 7202 0752 |

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[**https://www.veterinaryevidence.org/**](https://www.veterinaryevidence.org/)

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