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Manuscripts must be submitted by one of the authors of the manuscript, and should not be submitted by anyone on their behalf. The submitting author takes responsibility for the article during submission and peer review.

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See below for examples of acceptable word processor and graphics file formats. Additional files of any type, such as movies, animations, or original data files, can also be submitted as part of the publication.

During submission you will be asked to provide a cover letter. Please use this to explain why your manuscript should be published in the journal, to elaborate on any issues relating to our editorial policies detailed in the instructions for authors, and to declare any potential competing interests.

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Reviewers are asked whether the manuscript is scientifically sound and coherent, how interesting it is and whether the quality of the writing is acceptable. Where possible, the final decision is made on the basis that the peer reviewers are in accordance with one another, or that at least there is no strong dissenting view. In cases where there is strong disagreement either among peer reviewers or between the authors and peer reviewers, advice is sought from a member of the journal's Editorial Board. The journal allows a maximum of two revisions of any manuscript. All appeals should be directed to the Biology Editor. The ultimate responsibility for editorial decisions lies with the Editor-in-Chief.

Reviewers are also asked to indicate which articles they consider to be especially interesting or significant. These articles may be given greater prominence and greater external publicity, and the authors may be asked if they would prefer to have the manuscript published in *BMC Biology*

Once an article is accepted, it is published in *BMC Veterinary Research* immediately as a provisional PDF file. The paper will subsequently be published in both fully browseable web form, and as a formatted PDF. The article will then be available through *BMC Veterinary Research*, BioMed Central and PubMed Central, and will also be included in PubMed.

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Generic drug names should generally be used. When proprietary brands are used in research, include the brand names in parentheses in the Methods section.

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Nucleotide sequences Nucleotide sequences can be deposited with the [DNA Data Bank of Japan](#) (DDBJ), [European Molecular Biology Laboratory \(EMBL/EBI\) Nucleotide Sequence Database](#), or [GenBank](#) (National Center for Biotechnology Information).

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Protein sequences can be deposited with [SwissProt](#) or the [Protein Information Resource](#) (PIR).

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Protein structures can be deposited with one of the members of the [Worldwide Protein Data Bank](#). Nucleic Acids structures can be deposited with the [Nucleic Acid Database](#) at Rutgers. Crystal structures of organic compounds can be deposited with the [Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre](#).

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We encourage authors to prepare models of biochemical reaction networks using the [Systems Biology Markup Language](#) and to deposit the model with the [BioModels database](#), as well as submitting it as an additional file with the manuscript.

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Manuscripts for Research articles submitted to *BMC Veterinary Research* should be divided into the following sections:

- [Title page](#)
- [Abstract](#)
- [Background](#)
- [Results](#)
- [Discussion](#)
- [Conclusions](#)

- [Methods](#) (can also be placed after Background)
- [List of abbreviations used](#)(if any)
- [Authors' contributions](#)
- [Authors' information](#) (if any)
- [Acknowledgements](#)
- [References](#)
- [Figure legends](#) (if any)
- [Tables and captions](#) (if any)
- [Description of additional data files](#) (if any)

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The **Accession Numbers** of any nucleic acid sequences, protein sequences or atomic coordinates cited in the manuscript should be provided, in square brackets and include the corresponding database name; for example, [EMBL:AB026295, EMBL:AC137000, DDBJ:AE000812, GenBank:U49845, PDB:1BFM, Swiss-Prot:Q96KQ7, PIR:S66116].

The databases for which we can provide direct links are: EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Database ([EMBL](#)), DNA Data Bank of Japan ([DDBJ](#)), GenBank at the NCBI ([GenBank](#)), Protein Data Bank ([PDB](#)), Protein Information Resource ([PIR](#)) and the Swiss-Prot Protein Database ([Swiss-Prot](#)).

Title page

This should list: the title of the article, which should include an accurate, clear and concise description of the reported work, avoiding abbreviations; and the full names, institutional addresses, and e-mail addresses for all authors. The corresponding author should also be indicated.

Abstract

The abstract of the manuscript should not exceed 350 words and must be structured into separate sections: **Background**, the context and purpose of the study; **Results**, the main findings; **Conclusions**, brief summary and potential implications. Please minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references in the abstract.

Background

The background section should be written from the standpoint of researchers without specialist knowledge in that area and must clearly state - and, if helpful, illustrate - the background to the research and its aims. The section should end with a very brief statement of what is being reported in the article.

Results and Discussion

The Results and Discussion may be combined into a single section or presented separately. They may also be broken into subsections with short, informative headings.

Conclusions

This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance. Summary illustrations may be included. **Methods**

This should be divided into subsections if several methods are described.

List of abbreviations

If abbreviations are used in the text, either they should be defined in the text where first used, or a list of abbreviations can be provided, which should precede the authors' contributions and acknowledgements.

Authors' contributions

In order to give appropriate credit to each author of a paper, the individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section.

An "author" is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. To qualify as an author one should 1) have made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) have been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) have given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not justify authorship.

We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript. 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.

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Acknowledgements

Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the study by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship. Please also include their source(s) of funding. Please also acknowledge anyone who contributed materials essential for the study.

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References

All references must be numbered consecutively, in square brackets, in the order in which they are cited in the text, followed by any in tables or legends. Reference citations should not appear in titles or headings. Each reference must have an individual reference number. Please avoid excessive referencing. If automatic numbering systems are used, the reference numbers must be finalized and the bibliography must be fully formatted before submission.

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Web links and URLs should be included in the reference list. They should be provided in full, including both the title of the site and the URL, in the following format: **The Mouse Tumor Biology Database**[<http://tumor.informatics.jax.org/mtbwi/index.do>]

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Article within a journal

1. Koonin EV, Altschul SF, Bork P: **BRCA1 protein products: functional motifs**. *Nat Genet* 1996, **13**:266-267.

Article within a journal supplement

2. Orengo CA, Bray JE, Hubbard T, LoConte L, Sillitoe I: **Analysis and assessment of ab initio three-dimensional prediction, secondary structure, and contacts prediction**. *Proteins* 1999, **43**(Suppl 3): 149-170.

In press article

3. Kharitonov SA, Barnes PJ: **Clinical aspects of exhaled nitric oxide**. *Eur Respir J*, in press.

Published abstract

4. Zvaifler NJ, Burger JA, Marinova-Mutafchieva L, Taylor P, Maini RN: **Mesenchymal cells, stromal derived factor-1 and rheumatoid arthritis [abstract]**. *Arthritis Rheum* 1999, **42**:s250. *Article within conference proceedings*

5. Jones X: **Zeolites and synthetic mechanisms**. In *Proceedings of the First National Conference on Porous Sieves: 27-30 June 1996; Baltimore*. Edited by Smith Y. Stoneham: Butterworth-Heinemann; 1996:16-27.

Book chapter, or article within a book

6. Schnepf E: **From prey via endosymbiont to plastids: comparative studies in dinoflagellates**. In *Origins of Plastids. Volume 2*. 2nd edition. Edited by Lewin RA. New York: Chapman and Hall; 1993:53-76.

Whole issue of journal

7. Ponder B, Johnston S, Chodosh L (Eds): **Innovative oncology**. In *Breast Cancer Res* 1998, **10**:1-72.

Whole conference proceedings

8. Smith Y (Ed): *Proceedings of the First National Conference on Porous Sieves: 27-30 June 1996; Baltimore*. Stoneham: Butterworth-Heinemann; 1996.

Complete book

9. Margulis L: *Origin of Eukaryotic Cells*. New Haven: Yale University Press; 1970.

Monograph or book in a series 10. Hunninghake GW, Gadek JE: **The alveolar macrophage**. In *Cultured Human Cells and Tissues*. Edited by Harris TJR. New York: Academic Press; 1995:54-56. [Stoner G (Series Editor): *Methods and Perspectives in Cell Biology*, vol 1.]

Book with institutional author

11. Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification: *Annual Report*. London; 1999.

PhD thesis

12. Kohavi R: **Wrappers for performance enhancement and oblivious decision graphs**. *PhD thesis*. Stanford University, Computer Science Department; 1995.

Link / URL

13. **The Mouse Tumor Biology Database**
[<http://tumor.informatics.jax.org/mtbwi/index.do>]

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 - MOV (QuickTime)
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- Tabular data
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Compress the folder into a ZIP, check the file size is under 20 MB, ensure that index.html is in the root of the ZIP, and that the file has .zip extension, then submit as an additional file with your article

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Abbreviations should be used as sparingly as possible. They can be defined when first used or a list of abbreviations can be provided preceding the acknowledgements and references.

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