



Instructions to authors for the South African Journal of Animal Science

(Revised: December, 2009)

Editorial policy

The South African Society for Animal Science (SASAS) welcomes the submission of manuscripts from members of the South African Society for Animal Science and from scientists in Africa and abroad on all matters germane to the **science of animal production** for publication in the South African Journal of Animal Science (SAJAS). The scope of the journal includes reports of research dealing with farm livestock species (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry), as well as pertinent aspects of research on aquatic and wildlife species. The main disciplines covered are nutrition, genetics, physiology and production aspects of animal products. Papers dealing with sociological aspects of well-defined livestock production systems are invited, providing they are scientific by nature and have been carried out in a systematic way. Papers dealing with routine, repetitive testing or economic evaluation of specific products, feeds or cultivars, case studies or matters dealing with agricultural extension or consumer issues are discouraged unless the results so derived are used to develop or elaborate scientific concepts in the field of animal science. Papers that form part of a series are discouraged: this includes different aspects of data derived from one particular experiment, or cases in which the analytical techniques, animals or experimental procedures are common to all papers. Where authors have valid reasons for separation of reports into two manuscripts, these must be submitted simultaneously; delayed or staggered submissions will be automatically rejected. In all cases, reports should represent **original** contributions to current scientific knowledge of the **principles** or the **application of principles** governing the functioning of animals, production aspects of their products and their relationship to the social or physical environment.

Publication fee per article published (2010)

SASAS member is one of the authors: R 380.00 (US\$ equivalent) (*SASAS members may apply for exemption of the publication fee*);

Non-members in RSA and SADC: R 760.00

Non-members, rest of Africa and overseas: US\$ 175.00.

This will be levied upon acceptance of manuscript.

No reprints are supplied.

Revising / editing language of manuscript

Can be arranged at a fee of US\$ 100.00.

Types of articles

All submissions will be subjected to the peer-review process.

Research articles

Contributions should be based on original unpublished experimental data that have been analysed using statistical methods. Multi-part manuscripts derived from a common experiment will not be considered unless submitted simultaneously.

Short communications

Results from a limited investigation, work still in progress and new techniques can be submitted as a short communication. It should not exceed five printed pages. (See Instructions below).

Proceedings of Congresses, Conferences or Symposia

Proceedings of presentations delivered at congresses of the South African Society for Animal Science, international conferences held under the auspices of SASAS or other symposia of regional branches or interest groups of the Society can be published as separate “Conference proceedings” issues of the journal. Contributions will be subjected to the same peer reviewing as required for SAJAS, and a publication fee will be charged (to be negotiated). Organisers of such events should contact the editor-in-chief to ensure that peer-review procedures and formatting of abstracts are compliant with those of the journal.

Reviews

Reviews should have as their main aim the synthesis or application of new principles, hypotheses or future research directions from re-interpretation and scrutiny of existing published scientific data. It is normal practice for authors to include some of their own new but previously unpublished data in support of the concept that is synthesised. Syntheses and applications from technical reports, surveys and other unpublished but scientifically justifiable sources of information can also be used in support. Reviews aimed at distilling existing published information into a form that will contribute to a clearer understanding of, or more widespread application of research findings by generalist extension officers and non-scientists are also welcomed. Reviews are normally solicited by the editor-in-chief, but suggestions for topics or authors are welcomed. Reviews are subjected to the same peer-review process as is applied to all other submissions.

Electronic publication

The South African Journal of Animal Science is published electronically via the Internet, and can be accessed from the following address: <http://www.sasas.co.za/publications> or through <http://www.sasas.co.za>

One volume will be published per year, consisting of at least three issues, published at approximately 3- to 4-month intervals. Articles will, however, be placed on the Internet as soon as the copy-ready version has been approved by the submitting author. Urgent alterations can still be made before the hard copy is published.

Copyright

In submitting the corrected version of the manuscript (final version corrected according to reviewers' comments) for publication in the South African Journal of Animal Science, the authors automatically grant and assign all rights protected by copyright laws in the Republic of South Africa and all foreign countries, including subsidiary rights, exclusively to the South African Society for Animal Science. The unauthorised transfer of PDF files of articles placed on the website of the South African Journal of Animal Science to any other website, or any alteration of the original PDF file shall be deemed an infringement of copyright. Permission to use or republish material contained in the South African Journal of Animal Science must be obtained from the South African Society for Animal Science via the editor-in-chief of the journal.

Submission and the review process

The data upon which all types of manuscripts are based should be original (except review articles), should not have been published previously in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, and should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Submission of a manuscript is understood to imply that these

conditions have been met. The context and/or detail of the new findings must be sufficiently different to merit addition to the matrix of knowledge through publication.

Submission also implies that all authors have approved the submission and are in agreement with its content.

If figures, tables or parts of other copyright material not owned by the authors are included in articles submitted for publication in the journal, it is the sole responsibility of the authors to obtain permission to republish such items.

A sub-editor with the assistance of reviewers will be requested to review the manuscript and make a recommendation to the editor-in-chief.

Authors may suggest a list of experts whom they consider especially suitable to referee their paper, especially if the subject is highly specialized.

The editor-in-chief will advise the corresponding author on the outcome of the review based on the recommendation of the sub-editor.

Resubmitted manuscripts will follow the same process of evaluation as the first submission. Any resubmittal should be accompanied by a summary of the changes made and a brief response to all recommendations and criticisms.

***NB:** Initially a paper is accepted provisionally. The final decision to accept or reject manuscripts for publication resides with the editor-in-chief. If the editor-in-chief considers it necessary, the paper may be referred to the journal's editorial sub-committee for a final decision regarding acceptance.*

Style and Form

Manuscripts will not be admitted to the peer-review process until they are fully compliant with the style and format detailed in the instructions to authors.

Authors are requested to adhere strictly to the following directives and consult the most recent editions of the journal for issues not specifically mentioned here. The manuscript must be written in English, using the UK English spell check. It is up to the authors to make sure there are no typographical errors in the manuscript.

Submissions should be typed in MS WORD (or saved as doc files) and submitted as e-mail attachments to the editor-in-chief, preferably at jvryssen@up.ac.za, but also at editor@sasas.co.za

- The **title** must be informative and brief (if possible in punchline form to draw attention). The initials and name of the author(s), the address of the institution where the work was done must follow the title. Superscripts (1,2,3) should be used in cases where authors are from different institutions. The superscript # should be appended to the author to whom correspondence should be addressed, and indicated as such together with an e-mail address in the line immediately following the **keywords**. The present postal address of authors, if currently different from that of the institution, should also be superscripted appropriately and inserted in the lines following the abstract.
- An **abstract** should be included next. It should contain the following: purpose of study, experimental treatments, results, preferably in quantitative data, significance of findings and the conclusions. This should not exceed 250 words. Significance levels (e.g. $P < 0.05$) should not be included in the abstract.
The abstract is followed by a list of **Keywords:** - preferably ones not used in the title.

- The **contents** must be arranged in an orderly way with suitable headings for each subsection. The recommended subdivision of contents is as follows:
 - **Introduction:** This should include (a) a statement of why the subject under investigation is considered to be of importance, (b) a concise indication of the status quo of published research in this field and (c) why this article is considered to be an **original** contribution to current scientific knowledge of the **principles** or the **application of principles** governing the functioning of animals, production aspects of their products and their relationship to the social or physical environment. The last sentence of the introduction should contain a declaration of the aims of the experiment, i.e. the hypothesis. The introduction should not exceed one page in length.
 - **Materials and Methods:** These should be concise but of sufficient detail to enable the experiment to be replicated by an outside party. Statistical methods used must be clearly stated.
 - **Results and Discussion** may be treated separately or under one heading; do not insert sub-headings. Integrity in reporting requires that no inconsistent data are omitted or fabricated data presented.
 - **Conclusions:** This should consist of (a) a short integration of results that refer directly to the stated aims of the experiment and (b) a statement on the practical implications of the results. This section should not exceed one short paragraph. Do not summarise the discussion here.
 - **Acknowledgements:** Do not include titles of persons; use only initials and surnames. Acknowledge financial support from the NRF, and include their project GUN number, as required by the NRF.
 - **Footnotes** are not acceptable.

Main text: Font size 11 pt. The settings for the paragraph text should be as follows: format > paragraph > indentation: special; first line, and the alignment of all paragraphs is set as 'justified' so that there are no ragged edges on the right-hand side of the page.

Do **not** introduce sub-headings into the main heading sections – separate different sections using paragraphs. Do not leave open lines between paragraphs.

Tables are numbered consecutively in bold Arabic numerals (e.g. **Table 1** *note that there is no following colon or full stop*) and should bear a short, yet adequate descriptive caption (i.e. the caption should enable interpretation of the data presented if the table and caption were to be separated from the text). Example: inadequate: “**Table 1** Feed intake effects”; correct: “**Table 1** Mean (\pm s.e.) voluntary intake (g/d) of two diets differing in crude protein content by early-weaned (21 d) piglets”. (Font size: 11 pt). Measures of variance (e.g. s.e. or s.d.) included in tables should be clearly defined in the caption as in the preceding example. Metric units are to be clearly shown, symbols and abbreviated must be in accordance with international procedure. Explanatory notes to table elements are designated by superscripts, and the explanation should appear on the lines directly below the table. Differences between table means should be designated using superscripts (superscript should follow the mean in the table and not the s.e.) and the following conventional explanatory note which should appear on the line directly below the table: “^{a,b,c} Row means with different superscripts differ significantly at $P < 0.05$ ”. Tables should be centred on the page. Authors should pay special attention to the format for tables regarding lines, i.e. no vertical lines and horizontal lines before and after the heading and the last row of data only (see recent journal articles for examples). Tables should be inserted at the appropriate place in the text (do not append tables at the end of the article). Table contents (including table footnotes) should be typed using Times New Roman 10 point font.

Do not import tables from other packages. Write them in MS WORD! Tables must fit on a single page, according to the Page set-up instructions. Large tables will not be accepted.

Illustrations and diagrams. These should be inserted into the text at the appropriate position. Graphs* that have been scanned in **are not acceptable**. Graphs could be constructed using MS Excel and inserted into the text. All lettering and numerals that appear on figures should be set in **Times New Roman 10 point font**. Coloured lines should not be used; sequence differences should be indicated by symbols. Point means should, where possible, be accompanied by standard error bars. Tic marks on axes should face towards the inside of the graph. Figures should be numbered consecutively in bold Arabic numerals (**Figure 1**). Avoid the use of “shading” in illustrations.

Place its title underneath the Figure, but not as part of the inserted section.

Do not “block” the figure with lines surrounding it.

*If graphs, diagrams, etc. are imported from e.g. MS Excel, copy it and then under "Edit", use "Paste Special" and "Picture" to insert in document.

Ensure that lines, including axes and graphs, are bright. Faint/thin lines tend to fade when hard copies are printed.

Terminology, abbreviations and formulae: Use the SI metric system (US Metric Association) (<http://lamar.colostate.edu/~hillger/correct.htm>) for units of measurement and use a decimal point (i.e. do not express units in calories, pounds, miles, etc.). Spell out numbers from one to nine; use numerals for larger numbers, groups of numbers, fractions or units, e.g. four; 8-16; 4 kg/ha; 42 ewes, 67%. Note the spacing in the following text: $P < 0.05$; 5 min. For litres, use the abbreviation L or mL. When reporting concentrations of, for instance, the chemical composition of diets, use g/kg and not %; mg/kg and not ppm; mg Cu/kg and not mg/kg Cu; do not use the word “content” when specifying a concentration in terms of, for instance, g/kg or %. Use percent mainly to indicate relative changes.

When abbreviations are used, they must be explained in full the first time the concept is used, also in tables and figures. Do not start a sentence with an abbreviation.

Express nutrient concentrations of feeds preferably on a dry matter (DM) basis and indicate the basis clearly in the table.

Do not use the word ‘significantly’ where the level of significance is declared: e.g. use ‘Treatment A differed ($P < 0.01$) from treatment B’ and *not* ‘Treatment A differed highly significantly ($P < 0.01$) from treatment B’. Where means do not differ significantly, the appropriate level of probability could be stated e.g. “---did not differ ($P > 0.05$)”. Note the following syntax “variables differ between treatments” *not* “variables differ among treatments”. For standard error use the abbreviation s.e. and for standard deviation, use s.d.

Ethical

Where applicable animal experimentation must be conducted within standard ethical norms. A statement indicating compliance to that must be included in the Materials and Methods section.

References

- The existing relevant literature must be appropriately and fairly cited; in this respect reference efforts are always made to ensure that reference is made to the first report of a finding rather than a later elaboration.

References appearing in the text

- Cite references by name and date in parentheses. In the case of two authors, use an ampersand (&) and not “and”. The abbreviation “*et al.*” must be used in all cases where more than two authors are quoted. Personal communications and unpublished work should be cited in the text, giving the initials, name and date; they should not appear in the list of references. All other references in the text should be listed alphabetically by first authors’ surnames at the end of the paper under the heading, “References”. Multiple references within parentheses in the text should be cited in chronological order. Examples:

- Apart from the work of Chevallier & Smith (1971), Veary (1991) and Lewis *et al.* (1997), little data.....
- and has been shown to increase the pH (Chevallier & Smith, 1971; Veary, 1991; Lewis *et al.*, 1997). (note, after *et al.* not in italics).
- Do **not** put “Reference (1991, cited by Lewis *et al.*, 1997)” in text, but in list of references, viz. Reference, A.B., 1991. Full or available title. Journal name volume and pages (Cited by Lewis *et al.*, 1997). (See references of Scott and Tainton in list below).
- Personal communications: According to Brightguy (2005, A.B. Brightguy, Pers. Comm., Centre of Wisdom, P.O. Box 100, Pretoria, 0001) – Enough details so that person can be contacted.

References appearing in the list, “References”, at the end of the article:

- Journal names must be abbreviated according to the World List of Scientific Periodicals. Authors should pay special attention to the syntax used in the reference list and check that references in the text correspond completely and exactly with those given in the reference list.
- In all cases, a reference must provide sufficient information to enable the reader to obtain a copy of it; references to unpublished congress presentations are NOT acceptable.
- Reference to internet articles is permissible. Supply full traceable reference in list.
- **NB: It is the FULL responsibility of the authors to cross-check references in the text of the article with those in the list of references.**
- **Examples of references:** (Hanging indent 1 cm)

AOAC, 1984. Official methods of analysis (14th ed.). Association of Official Analytical Chemists, Inc., Arlington, Virginia, USA.

Hoffman, L.C. & Ferreira, A.V., 2000. pH decline of the *M. longissimus thoracis* of night-cropped grey duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*). S. Afr. J. Anim. Sci. 30, 16-17.

Lawrie, R.A., 1998. Lawrie’s Meat Science. 6th ed. Woodhead Publ. Ltd. Cambridge, England. 336 pp.

NRC, 1984. Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle (6th ed.). National Academy Press, Washington D.C., USA.

Read, M.V.P., 1984. Animal performance from natural pastures and the effects of phosphorus supplementation. MSc (Agric) thesis, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

SAS, 1985. Statistical Analysis Systems user's guide (5th ed.). SAS Institute Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina, USA.

Sutton, J.D., 1976. Energy supply from the digestive tract of cattle. In: Principles of Cattle Production. Eds. Swan, H. & Broster, W.H., Butterworths, London. pp. 12-22.

Scott, J.D., 1947. Veld management in South Africa. Bull. Dept. Agric. S. Afr. No. 28. (cited by Tainton, 1999).

Tainton, N.M., 1999. The ecology of the main grazing lands of South Africa. In: Veld Management in South Africa. Ed. Tainton, N.M., University of Natal Press, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. pp. 48.

- **Articles in foreign languages:**

Yalçın, H., 1997. Central North Anatolian zeolite occurrences related to Eocene submarine volcanism in Turkey. Bull. Eng. Fac. Cumhuriyet Univ. Serie A-Earth Sci. 14, 43-56 (in Turkish, English abstract).

Türkoğlu, M., Arda, M., Yetişir, R., Sarıca, M. & Erensayın, C., 1997. Broiler production. In: Poultry Science, Otak Form-Ofset, Samsun. pp.167-185 (in Turkish).

Style and format of Short Communications

A short communication should be a maximum of five pages. It contains a very brief abstract followed by a brief introduction, text including tables and figures and a brief conclusion followed by references. No subheadings are to be included except for the Abstract. Format, tables and figures must conform to the conventions of the Journal.

SUMMARY OF FORMAT

Submissions will **not** be accepted unless formatted as follows:

Page size: A4
 Line numbering OFF
 Page numbering ON - position: top right, font: Times New Roman 10 point
 Line spacing: single

File > Page Setup> Margins

Top: 3 cm
 Bottom: 2.5 cm
 Left: 2 cm
 Right: 2 cm
 Gutter: 0 cm
 Header: 1 cm
 Footer: 1.4 cm

File > Page Setup>Paper size
 210 X 297 mm (A4)

Insert > Page numbers
 Position: Top of page (header)
 Alignment: right

For main text (excluding headings) use the following:

Format > Font >
 Font: Times New Roman
 Style: Regular
 Size: 11 pt

Format > Paragraph

First line of paragraph: first line indent: 1 cm
 Line Spacing: Single
 References: hanging indent: 1 cm

Symbols: Whenever possible, use “normal text”.

Title: Font size: 14 pt, bold, centred (*no full stop*)

14 pt

Authors[#] and Co-author: Font size: 12 pt, bold, centred

Affiliations, including country: Font size: 10 pt, centred

10 pt

10 pt

Headings (e.g. Abstract, Materials): Font size: 12 pt, bold

Keywords: Font size: 11 pt,

Corresponding author. E-mail: editor@sasas.co.za Font size: 10 pt