Editorial

It's been a landmark year for the Journal of Applied Animal Nutrition (JAAN)! In the last 12 months we moved publishers (to Wageningen Academic Publishers (WAP) from Cambridge University Press) and I would like to thank all the staff at both these august institutions for their assistance during this transfer. For me, it's been a time of getting to grips with new software and systems, but this has all settled down well. WAP have been very active in new marketing campaigns, putting out the message of what JAAN is offering to those working in all animal nutrition, which is to provide a platform for publishing both academic and commercial research work in the public domain for all species, including companion animals, wild and zoo species.

So far, since the handover, we have had 15 paper submitted, many by new authors, which is very encouraging, as we need to hit a certain target regarding numbers published to allow Clavirate to assign us an impact factor (IF) – so please keep those papers coming in! Essentially, to gain an IF, a certain number of papers must be published in a 12-month period, and the number of citations each paper obtains during that year and for five years after (the five-year impact factor) is then calculated. However, it is important to remember that the IF for each journal is not really a quality measure, as it doesn't take into account the science involved – it is more of a rating of popularity of the topic. That being said, gaining an IF for JAAN will give a sense of security for certain authors and meet criteria set by certain funding bodies.

It is great to see new authors from company technical staff and university researchers starting to notice our existence. The broad range of species covered allows coverage from areas that typically struggle to find non-clinical journals to publish with, and I would like to invite all those working on exotic species and companion animals to consider JAAN for publicising their work. In addition, providing full Open Access (which JAAN is) as well as a rapid, friendly service for authors at an affordable cost is becoming a focal point within animal science.

JAAN has some significant differences from other journals. In order to keep JAAN completely unbiased whilst still

allowing papers on commercial topics and products, we do not derive income from direct advertising or sponsorship from companies. The staff involved feel this is important to give readers the security that the quality of science remains high, and there is no conflict of interest in a financial sense.

I would like to thank the staff at WAP as well as our great team on the Editorial Board for their assistance in running the journal and our fantastic reviewers, who are all busy people and take time out to keep the journal papers moving. My aim as editor is to give authors the best experience I can with getting their research published, which, as a young scientist (many years ago), I often found daunting and rather disappointing. I am always happy to take an initial look at papers to see if they are suitable for the journal, and give advice before submission – please just email me. Although I aim for the fastest turnaround possible, as this is a source of frustration for researchers, do remember that reviewers are busy people, and sometimes we have to invite many people in order to secure the two reviews needed.

So, to sign off, I hope all our readers enjoy the papers in JAAN. The species and topics range widely – and are interesting to read even if they are not directly related to your own area of expertise!

Dr Lucy Waldron

Editor-in-Chief