

Judging Criteria

For Review Article, Case Report, Original Study, Retrospective Study

1. Originality:
 - a) To what degree is the manuscript the original and primary work of the student?
 - b) How much assistance did the student require from the sponsor or others?

NOTE: It is acceptable for sponsors to provide guidance with topic selection, content, editing, data interpretation, etc. as long as it is the student who is primarily responsible for the content and writing of the paper.
2. Active participation:
 - a) How much did the student actively participate in the study design, data collection, patient care, diagnosis, and/or follow-up discussed in the paper?
3. Format: proper formatting for type of paper.
 - a) Does the manuscript follow the basic JAVMA guidelines for formatting?
 - b) Is the format appropriate for the type of paper (study vs. review vs. case report)?
4. Importance:
 - a) Is the information new (previously unreported poison; new info on existing poison; new perspective on published literature)?
 - b) Will the information provide an important benefit to the field of Toxicology?
5. Presentation:
 - a) Is the writing clear, concise, and understandable?
 - b) Is proper grammar used? Are abbreviations or jargon used excessively?
 - c) Is the material well-organized?
 - d) Should any part of the material have been expanded, condensed, or eliminated?
6. Content:
 - a) Is the title a clear, accurate representation of the content?
 - b) Is the purpose of the paper clear and the objective relevant?
 - c) For Case Reports: Are case history, clinical signs, lab results, lesions, management, and/or follow-up described in sufficient detail?
 - d) For Review Papers: Is the information complete and organized so that it ties together loose ends currently in the literature or presents information in a fresh way?
 - e) For Original or Retrospective Study: Are the study design and statistical methods valid? Are the materials & methods and the results described in sufficient detail?
7. Supporting Material:
 - a) Are tables and charts understandable? Are they labeled appropriately?
 - b) Are figures and photos of good quality? Are reference points (arrows, asterisks, etc.) and/or measures (rulers, bars, etc.) used if needed to understand the material?
 - c) Are the legends descriptive enough so that the reader does not have to refer back to the text to understand them?

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- d) Are all tables, figures, and photos necessary? Is there repetition of material?
- e) Conversely, should part of the text have been condensed into a table or chart for clarity and conciseness? Would photos have been beneficial?

8. Discussion:

- a) Are the conclusions and interpretations valid?
- b) Are all key issues addressed, including any unexpected findings?
- c) Is the importance of the results balanced, without being overemphasized or underemphasized?
- d) Are all recommendations supported and within the scope of the report?

9. Documentation:

- a) Are proper citations used (quotations, references, footnotes, etc.)?
- b) Have any important references been omitted?
- c) Are the references weighted too heavily with review papers or book chapters?

Scorecard

Score each paper on each of the criteria based on a scale of 1-5

1.0 is the low score and 5.0 is the high score.

(You are not confined to using whole numbers when scoring the criteria)

Year:

Reviewer Name:

Paper Title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total

Reviewer's Notes: *(You have the option of providing comments regarding one or more papers, which can be included in the notification letter to the student.)*