

## GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

*Please use this sheet as a guide only to assist you in formulating your comments on the referee evaluation sheet.  
Your comments will assist the author when revising the manuscript.*

**Please do not write your comments on this sheet, use the referee evaluation sheet provided.**

- Does the subject fall within the general scope of the journal?
- Is this a new and original contribution? (For review articles this need not necessarily apply.)
- Are interpretations and conclusions sound, justified by the data and consistent with the objectives?

*If the answers to any of the above three points are negative, please give clear arguments for rejection of the paper on the enclosed referee evaluation sheet.*

*If the answers to the above three points are positive, then please continue with the following.*

- Does the title clearly reflect the contents?
- Is the abstract sufficiently informative, especially when read in isolation?
- Are appropriate keywords given?
- Is the statement of objectives of the article adequate and appropriate in view of the subject matter?
- Is the description of materials and methods sufficiently informative to allow replication of the experiment?
- Are the statistical methods used correct and adequate?
- Are the results clearly presented?
- Is the organisation of the article satisfactory (e.g. no discussion in Results)?
- Is the article structured in agreement with the Guide for Authors?
- Does the content justify the length?
- Are the figures and tables all necessary, complete (e.g. titles) and clearly presented?
- Are the references adequate and in agreement with the Guide for Authors?
- Is the English correct and understandable to a multidisciplinary and multinational readership?
- For Elsevier's animal and veterinary journals only: if the paper deals with animal experimentation, could any aspect of it be seen as having caused unnecessary suffering?