INTRODUCING VETERINARY SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This new journal has a double origin. Elsevier has for some time been exploring the need for a letters journal in veterinary science that would publish brief scientific contributions having a relatively high news value. It became clear that there is a place for such a periodical at the international level.

At the same time the Commission of the European Communities was working on a programme of topical review articles on growing points in veterinary science (called "European Community Preview Articles"), for the publication of which they wanted a journal to be established. As both types of papers - letters and review articles - would cover the same scientific field and both are in character reader-orientated, it was felt logical to join forces and make plans for one journal. This led to the initiation of Veterinary Science Communications.

CATEGORIES OF PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED

The origin of the journal determines the two major sections of its contents: review articles and letters. In addition, a few pages may be devoted to important news items, if submitted, dealing with such subjects as forthcoming meetings, international research programmes or important developments in international organisations in veterinary science. Correspondence about items published in the journal might also be accepted for printing. As a fair number of book reviews already appear elsewhere in the veterinary literature, it was felt that a book reviews section is not particularly needed. Furthermore, the number of books that would qualify for review is relatively large and thus would require a substantial number of pages in the journal.

REVIEW ARTICLES

The idea of "European Community Preview Articles" in veterinary science originated in a working group of the Commission of the European Communities, "The Round Table on Documentation and Information in
Veterinary Science" (VETEC). It was clear that a gap existed between the publication of original scientific papers and the appearance of a classical review article which only comes about at a very late stage when the work is more or less complete. Indeed new and potentially exciting scientific developments occur continually in each of the member countries of the European Communities, and these might be more rapidly exploited if they were more widely known at an early stage.

The intention was that growing points should be identified and that the scientists involved be invited to submit short reviews of their work emphasizing how further development might be made. It was felt that a journal containing review articles of this kind would have potential value for furthering new discoveries and in linking scientific endeavour across national barriers. Initially the Editorial Board is commissioning reviews from scientists who have growing points to propose and share; in future the board welcomes submissions, whether from scientists in the member states of the European Communities or from elsewhere.

The reviews should generally be shorter than the classical type with the bibliography restricted to only essential references. The author should give a clear and concise description of known research findings on a particular topic, the latter preferably being chosen from an area in which the author himself has made a scientific contribution. He should indicate the potential consequences of the reviewed research and emphasize the aspects that deserve international collaboration. All reviews will be subjected to a refereeing process to ensure a high scientific standard.

LETTERS

Letters are short communications of up to six journal pages which merit early publication because of their scientific value, news-worthiness and international interest. They report the original work of the authors and present new findings or techniques. They are intended to advance the disciplines with which they are concerned and may take the form either of definitive articles or of preliminary communications on work which may be reported more fully elsewhere. For a more detailed definition of the category of communications called "letters" the reader is referred to an article planned for the second issue of the journal.

The scope is broad and embraces the pre-, para- and clinical veterinary sciences and the animal sciences generally. The letters section affords space for articles on animals kept for food or other forms of