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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* to join the Open Access Movement

The Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery (JFMS) is set to become a Gold Open Access journal beginning in January 2023

[Tisbury, UK; Bridgewater, NJ; June 8, 2022] – *JFMS*, the official journal of the International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), is set to make a significant step towards ISFM and the AAFP's goal of empowering the veterinary community to provide outstanding care for cats, by becoming open access. This means that, from January 2023, all papers will be freely available to read online by everyone immediately upon publication, and will be published under a Creative Commons license. In becoming open access, *JFMS* joins its sister journal, the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery Open Reports*, which is already a Gold Open Access journal.

Currently, the majority of *JFMS* articles are behind a paywall and only available to members of ISFM or the AAFP, or by subscription. Once *JFMS* becomes Gold Open Access, however, the global veterinary community and beyond will have free access to the latest papers that aim to improve the veterinary care and welfare of domestic cats. In addition, the full *JFMS* archive, containing more than 2300 papers, will be made free to view. Being able to provide

high-quality peer-reviewed information to a much wider audience has been the driving force behind the move to make *JFMS* open access.



Heather O'Steen, CEO of the AAFP

Heather O'Steen, CEO of the AAFP, states: "The AAFP is enthusiastic and eager for more veterinary professionals to receive access to the leading publication for feline scientific and veterinary research, helping to advance the standards of feline medicine worldwide."



Claire Bessant, Chief Executive of International Cat Care

Claire Bessant, Chief Executive of International Cat Care, the parent charity of ISFM, comments: "It will be so wonderful to make this vast resource of information available to all veterinary professionals who see cats. Making *JFMS* open access will contribute hugely to International Cat Care's mission of enabling more people to act in a cat friendly way to improve cat welfare. We know that veterinary training in feline medicine and surgery is sometimes not a priority, yet cats are becoming more popular as pets worldwide and owners want good veterinary care for their pets. We are all continually learning about cats and being able to share *JFMS* more widely is very exciting."

While there are changes to the way *JFMS* is published, the commitment to publish to exceptional standards remains unchanged. The same rigorous review process will be in place, and the AAFP and ISFM will continue to make a significant investment in maintaining a dedicated editorial team to ensure the highest possible quality of published papers.

The AAFP and ISFM will, in addition, continue to invest in the production of the popular and reader-friendly Clinical Review articles, which will also be published open access from 2023. These articles will form the basis of the AAFP and ISFM's new monthly 'Clinical Spotlight' feature, which will include resources exclusively for the AAFP and ISFM Members, such as podcasts, videos, and/or interviews that take a deeper dive into the topic with the author. The AAFP and ISFM are excited to also have other new resources for their members; for example, monthly emails that summarize the most clinically relevant and useful latest research for veterinarians who have limited time to keep up to date.

As is typical for open access journals, the cost of publication will no longer lie with the reader, but instead with the author. The AAFP, ISFM, and *JFMS*'s publisher, SAGE, however, endeavour to set the article processing charge (APC – the fee paid on acceptance of an article) at a rate that remains competitive, and additionally, for the 12 months after the introduction of the APC on July 4, 2022, there will be a discounted rate of \$900 USD.

Following this, there will be discounts for the AAFP and ISFM Members on the full APC of \$1800 USD.

The move to being Gold Open Access is a pivotal moment in the development of *JFMS*, and the journal is set to be more widely read and better used than ever before. The welfare of cats can only benefit from this evolution.

To find out more, visit jfms.com.

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About the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery

The *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* (jfms.com) is the official journal of the [International Society of Feline Medicine](https://www.isfm.org) and the [American Association of Feline Practitioners](https://www.aafp.org), and is published by SAGE Publishing.

About the International Society of Feline Medicine

[The International Society of Feline Medicine](https://www.isfm.org) (ISFM) is the veterinary division of the pioneering cat welfare charity International Cat Care. Trusted by vets and nurses, it provides a worldwide resource on feline health and wellbeing.

About the American Association of Feline Practitioners

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) supports its members and improves the health and welfare of cats by supporting high standards of practice, continuing education, and evidence-based medicine (catvets.com). As a trusted leader in the veterinary community, the AAFP has a long-standing reputation and track record for facilitating high standards, including guidelines for practice excellence and educational resources. Over the years, the AAFP has encouraged veterinary professionals to continuously re-evaluate preconceived notions of practice strategies in an effort to advance the quality of feline medicine practiced. Launched in 2012, the Cat Friendly Practice® (CFP) Program (catvets.com/cfp) was created to improve the treatment, handling, and overall healthcare provided to cats. Its purpose is to equip veterinary practices, teams, and individuals with the tools and resources to reduce stress associated with the visit and elevate the standard of care provided to cats. Launched in 2020, the Cat Friendly Certificate Program (catvets.com/certificate) now provides this education to individual veterinary professionals. [Catfriendly.com](https://catfriendly.com), or Cat Friendly Homes, is the AAFP's cat caregiver educational resource which is powered by feline veterinarians and includes a monthly newsletter, The Cat Column.