

Genesis and Impact of the *Journal of Camel Practice and Research*

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GENESIS

Birth of Journal of Camel Practice and Research (JCPR) thus took place in 1994 after obtaining a legal title of journal from the Govt of India by Camel Publishing House. It is a biannual journal being brought out in June and December every year in English language. Its print ISSN is 0971-6777 and online ISSN 2277-8934.

The genesis of Journal of Camel Practice and Research is a long story. I was a camel scientist and working in South Asia's biggest camel clinic at College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bikaner, Rajasthan, India since 1979. I developed an important surgical technique i.e., interdental wiring technique to repair fractured mandible in camels in addition to other surgical techniques at a time when neither anatomy nor surgery books on camels were available. I participated in first International Camel Conference held at Tobruk, Libya in Dec 1990 and second International Camel Conference held at Dubai (UAE) in 1992 and presented my work on camels. I met several camel scientists and overviewed the available camelid literature. I developed a frustration in mind over not having an exclusive journal on camels. There was a Camel News Letter being brought out by ACSAD, Syria but its publication was irregular and very few papers were accommodated in it.

I realised that majority of camel scientists are from either Arab world or South Asia and English is not their first language, hence preferring to publish their papers in other language (Arabic, Chinese, etc) scientific journals. These journals were not available to rest of the world. I contacted camel scientists from various countries

who were engaged in camel research and received an overwhelming response to my idea of starting a journal on camels. Thus an exclusive journal on camels came into existence in 1994 after obtaining a legal title of journal from the Govt of India. An Editorial board was made comprising of eminent camel scientists.

Compelling reasons for genesis of an exclusive camel journal

Camel Scientists started feeling cornered and were isolated as their papers were not published in Veterinary journals being published in English language, hence their research was not known to the rest of the world. It was a time when hosting of camel conferences was once in 2-4 years, which was a long gap for contacting each other for camel scientists. Lack of exclusive journal on camels also led to a communication gap between working scientists. Missing links of research were not known to them. Exclusive news on camel research, practice and conferences etc were not available.

Generation of funds

The first issue of JCPR was supported by Dr. Ilse Kohler Rollefson who is Chairperson of League for Pastoral Peoples, Germany and is spearheading one NGO working for pastoralists in Rajasthan State of India. Although the generation of funds was primarily through advertisements and subscriptions but it was not enough. The journal was made self finance sustainable by introducing reprint charges.

IMPACT

Growth of Journal

JCPR published proceedings of international conferences held at Hannover, Germany in 1994 and international camel conference held at Israel, in 1997. This journal is in exchange with Pakistan Veterinary Journal of University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan. JCPR also brought out special issues on physiology, anatomy, laboratory diagnosis, diseases and New World Camelids. Several books were compiled on various subjects by selecting the published articles of these subjects in order to strengthen the camelid literature and its availability. These books were Selected Bibliography on Camelids in 2002, Selected Research on Camelid Physiology and Nutrition in 2004, Selected Research on Camelid

Parasitology in 2009 and Selected Research on Gross Anatomy and Histology of Camelids in 2011.

Impact Factor

JCPR has traversed through several ups (0.169) and down (0.114) of impact factor (<http://www.sciencegateway.org/impact/if02j1.html>). Nevertheless, its team was complacent and tried to improve with every issue of JCPR.

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), India declared its rating for JCPR (6.6 for the year 2012) which is considered to be a significant one in India as scientists are supposed to publish their papers in journals having more than 5 impact factor. Every issue of JCPR had Editorial which highlighted the latest upcoming research, news about the forthcoming or just held camelids conferences, new innovations etc.

Explored new areas of research

New areas of research were explored in the fields like reproduction, parasitology, anatomy, immunology, physiology, nutrition, milk, and diseases. Total papers published from 1994-2011 were 697. Highest number of papers published were of PHYSIOLOGY (16.21%) followed by anatomy (12.63%), production (11.04%), diseases (10.04%), surgery, radiology and anaesthesia (10.04%) and remaining subjects in decreasing order were parasitology (8.75%), reproduction (7.17%), microbiology (6.02%), pharmacology (5.45%), nutrition (3.87%), immunology (3.73%), pathology (3.59%) and genetics (1.43%).

Provided scientific and academic services through editorial office:

Many research scholars doing research in India and abroad sought help in locating the pertinent literature and relevant laboratory were helped through editorial office to facilitate their research. It also connected camel scientists working in diverse fields of camel science and practice.

Unique sustenance of the journal

The biggest luck of JCPR was its unique sustenance with minimum supporting staff at publishing house. Although its circulation was restricted by and large to Arab world and middle-east countries but its popularity score was always high which is evident by pouring-in of large number of manuscripts for every issue of JCPR. Despite of inherent constraints in production of Journal of Camel Practice and Research (JCPR) it has entered in its 18th year and has become now online too. JCPR has proven a binding force to camel researchers and practitioners over the years. A continuous support and demand of JCPR is making it sustainable.