

Q&A with Professor Mads Bertelsen, contributor to *Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia*

A recent paper from zoological veterinarian Prof. Bertelsen won this year's Colonel John Langley Prize for scientific originality.

Thanks for speaking with us. What is your position and area of research?

I'm a veterinarian and researcher at Copenhagen Zoo, and an Affiliate Professor at the University of Copenhagen. My areas of research are zoological medicine in a broad sense, and more specifically, comparative anaesthesia, physiology and pathophysiology.

What was the main conclusion of your most recent article, in a nutshell?

[This research](#) concluded that the anaesthetic requirements of certain mammals (dosage by weight) depends on their body temperature. In particular, desert-living animals such as camels and the Arabian oryx – a type of antelope – decrease their body temperature at night to conserve energy. The metabolic rate, and thus the distribution and breakdown of anaesthetic drugs, depends on body temperature, and thus a cold oryx requires less drugs than a hot oryx!

Why did you choose to publish in *Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia* (VAA)?

In my mind, VAA is the leading outlet for papers related to veterinary anaesthesia. For a more specialised anaesthesia paper on an exotic animal, I would have chosen a specialised zoological medicine journal, but in this case, I felt that the topic would be of general interest to veterinary anaesthetists.

Was the target audience the main benefit of publishing in *Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia*?

Yes, the target audience of veterinary anaesthetists is important, but so was the high standard of the review process, with its double-blind review approach.

On that note, what was the publication process like? And how did you find the review process?

It was relatively smooth, and fair. Ironically, the reviewers did not like the title of the paper, but the editors allowed us to retain it, and the paper went on to win the Colonel John Langley Prize earlier this year – an annual award for originality and a high level of scientific content made by the Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists after consultation with the Editorial Board of VAA.

Congratulations! What has the response to your article been like?

We have had great response to the paper, I think because it has exposed a common-sense, yet overlooked area of the field of veterinary anaesthesia.