

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR  
**WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE: EVOLUTION 2008-2012  
AND NEW FEATURES FOR 2013****Pascual J.J.****Editor in chief**

At the last meeting of the World Rabbit Science Association, held as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Rabbit Congress (Sept 5, 2012) in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt), the Editor-in-chief of *World Rabbit Science* presented the latest news on the journal's evolution over the last 4 years and some new features for the coming year which are worth spreading among *World Rabbit Science* subscribers.

Journal Citation Reports® recently published the indexes for 2011 of the journals included in this source of citation data. As you know, *World Rabbit Science* has been included in the category "Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science" of the Journal Citation Reports® since 2007, along with another 55 journals that also publish animal science knowledge. As can be seen from the Table, the evolution of the Impact Factor (IF; average number of times articles from the journal published in the past two years have been cited in the JCR year) of *World Rabbit Science* has led us to achieve a 5-year Impact Factor of **0.667**, positioning the journal at ranking 27 of 55 (in the Q2 quartile of this category for the first time). The *World Rabbit Science* Editorial Board believes that this progress highlights the availability and/or interest of the knowledge published in *World Rabbit Science*, making it a suitable alternative to bear in mind when disseminating your new findings in rabbit science.

Year	Impact Factor	Papers published	Total cites
2007	0.574	23	204
2008	0.863	28	239
2009	0.453	25	216
2010	0.660	28	271
2011	0.698	24	255

To further increase availability, and in turn boost the IF and quality of the knowledge published in *World Rabbit Science*, the Editorial Board is planning a series of actions:

1. **New repository and manuscript centre in the UPV Poli[Papers]** (repository based on Open Journal Systems (OJS)). This new website is friendlier than the current version, and, thanks to the support of the *UPV Digital Library*, the knowledge published in *World Rabbit Science* will be better positioned in relevant searching sources such as Scopus, Google, Web of Knowledge... The repository has only been accessible since the beginning of 2012, and its manuscript centre will be available as of the end of September 2012. UPV digital library has prepared useful guides to this new environment for authors, editors and referees.

2. Just as promised in the 9<sup>th</sup> World Rabbit Congress of Verona (June 2008), *World Rabbit Science* will provide **free digital access from January 2013**. Indeed, access to *World Rabbit Science* for the last 2 years was limited, as these issues were still only available to subscribers. Turning *World Rabbit Science* into an “**Open Free Digital Journal**”, at no cost to readers and authors, the quick visibility and citation of the papers published in *World Rabbit Science* will be promoted, constituting an advantage compared to other journals where journal knowledge is only available to subscribers.

To achieve this goal, the Editorial Board of *World Rabbit Science* counts on the assistance of the *UPV Editorial*, which is currently handling the layout of the papers prior to publication and is committed to provide complete Editorial Secretary support to *World Rabbit Science* (control of the platform, contact with the referees, editors and authors, digital copies of volumes and issues, deliveries...) in the coming months. In fact, those subscribers interested in maintaining printed subscriptions to *World Rabbit Science* will have the opportunity to receive complete volumes and even issues from the *UPV Editorial* at a similar price to the current one.

Finally, I would like to round off this letter by expressing my gratitude to the last Associate Editor of the Behaviour and Welfare Section, **Dra. Marina López**, who recently left the Editorial Board of *World Rabbit Science*. Her efficient and unrewarded dedication to the Editorial Office of our journal since 2005 is beyond praise. In the same way, we extend a warm welcome to the new Associate Editor of this Section, **Dra. Gabriela González-Mariscal**, a recognised researcher from the Universidad Autónoma de Tlaxcala (México), whose contribution will ensure that *World Rabbit Science* continues to be a reference for rabbit science.