



# THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FARRIERS

## FWCF DISSERTATIONS

The FWCF dissertation should be written to a high standard of presentation in a scientific style as if it was to be reproduced in a peer reviewed journal or presented at a scientific meeting. Candidates should appreciate that accepted dissertations will be displayed in college libraries for future generations of potential FWCFs to study. Papers containing factual or anatomical errors will therefore be rejected. Copyright of dissertations submitted for FWCF Examinations belongs to the WCF

The dissertation must exceed 3,000 words but be concise (not exceeding 5,000 words). Candidates should be aware that it is quality not volume that will be assessed by the examiners – less is sometimes more! It must be the original, unpublished, recent work (within last two years) of the author. It is accepted that many studies are now collaborative efforts with more than one author. In these cases the candidate must make clear in a preface the exact nature of his own involvement in the preparation of the report. Previously published work may form the basis of a submission but new material must have been added. It is acknowledged that many dissertations may revisit previously published work by other authors - this is both acceptable and indeed desirable as long as the candidate adds his/her own findings and includes within his/her discussion a full justification of why he/she felt a re-examination of the area was required. The authors of previously published papers must always be fully referenced and the extent to which the candidate has relied on such papers clearly indicated.

The dissertation may be in the form of a ‘study’ or a ‘case report series’.

Other media such as DVD’s, radiographs, and digital photographs are all acceptable.

### **Style**

Scientific papers are invariably written in the past tense and third person. Anecdotal evidence should be avoided – although may form a brief discussion point.

It is the author’s prerogative to present his dissertation in any manner however experience shows that it is best to divide the text into the following sections.

### **Presentation of a Study**

**Introduction.** A brief formal statement of intent. What will the reader learn from this dissertation? What does it set out to demonstrate? The introduction may include a summary of relevant literature but NOT any discussion.

**Materials and method.** How the study is constructed. How the results were analysed.

**Results.** Presentation of the results. This section should NOT contain discussion. A statistical analysis of any results is particularly useful.

**Discussion.** The most important part of any dissertation. Usually the discussion will contain at least 30% of the word count. What has the study demonstrated? What could have been done better? What was done well? How does it compare to a study of the published literature? Where do we go from here?

**References.** All citations in the text should be listed by author, date, title, journal, volume number, and page in strict alphabetical order.

### **Presentation of case reports.**

The presentation of interesting or challenging cases can form a valuable contribution to the scientific debate and would be suitable as dissertation material.

For the FWCF dissertation candidates wishing to use case material should present series of cases rather than individual cases. In this context a series is three or more individual cases.

The basic format will be similar to a study:

- Introduction.
- Materials and method.
- Presentation.
- Treatment / shoeing plan.
- Outcome
- Discussion
- References

### **Illustrations**

The FWCF dissertation should contain high quality illustrations, tables, graphs and / or diagrams. These must be clearly labelled and must have direct relevance to the text. As the dissertation will be lodged in the college libraries candidates must respect any copyright restrictions.

### **Marking**

The dissertation is Stage One of the theory part of the examination. When the examining panel is satisfied that a dissertation has reached the high standard expected by the WCF they will grant permission to proceed to Stage Two of the examination. This permission will be valid for three years from the date of the FWCF examinations immediately following it being given, ie six sessions of the Higher Examinations. A candidate is expected to make every reasonable effort to attain the Fellowship within that period, **but only three attempts at the FWCF are allowed in that three year period.** The EEG may in its absolute discretion vary this rule and will usually require the dissertation to be re-examined after the three year time period has elapsed if the candidate has not achieved the Fellowship.

If permission to proceed is not granted, the examiners will make recommendations for revisions. In this case the dissertation may be re-presented on one further occasion at one of the next two sessions (ie within about one year). This will be assessed, along with the comments of the original examiners, and the examiners will decide whether to grant permission to proceed. It should not be taken for granted that such a dissertation will automatically be accepted.

Where a dissertation is rejected outright the examiners should explain to the candidate the reasons for this rejection. A failed dissertation will usually require considerable reworking before a further submission is made.