

## Evidence-based orthopaedics or 'superstition in the pigeon'

Dear Sir,

The recent witty article by Evans on evidence-based medicine (EBM) deserves comment, not

---

**Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol 2010; 23: 150**

**doi:10.3415/VCOT-09-10-0112**

Received: October 28, 2009

Accepted: November 5, 2009

### Correspondence to:

Joseph Harari, MS, DVM, DACVS  
 Veterinary Surgical Specialists  
 21 E. Mission  
 Spokane, WA 99202  
 United States  
 Phone: +1 509 324 0055  
 Fax: +1 509 326 7213  
 E-mail: jharari103@aol.com

so much for comparing orthopaedic surgeons to pigeons, but rather for the solutions proposed to enhance publication of evidentiary clinical papers (1).

Instead of depending on readers to provide feedback to editors and authors as he suggested, I would recommend that journals utilise statisticians early in the review process and thereby euthanatize biostatistically unhealthy manuscripts before they appear in the public domain. I suspect most readers (and perhaps reviewers) are not well versed in the rules and regulations of statistics, and routinely just try to comprehend the relevancy of a paper's conclusion.

The irony is that in this issue of VCOT there were several retrospective papers, with low case numbers and equivocal controls, all 'confirming' or 'justifying' the authors' hypotheses – a probable source of consternation to proponents of EMB.

Joseph Harari

### Reference

1. Evans R. Evidence-based orthopaedics or 'superstition in the pigeon'. *Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol* 2009; 22: 346–350.