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28 June 2013

To: the subscribers of the journal *Laboratory Animals of Laboratory Animal Science Associations*:
FELASA, AFSTAL, ESLAV, GV-Solas, ILAF, LASA, LAVA, NVP, SECAL, SGV, SPCAL

Topic: Journal *Laboratory Animals*: publishing and subscriber pricing information

We thought it would be a good idea to give you an update on the *Laboratory Animals* Journal with regards to the current position on publishing and subscriber pricing information.

In November 2012, Laboratory Animals Ltd. (LAL) had to change publisher for the journal *Laboratory Animals*, since RSM press had decided to sell the production of all their journals to SAGE Publishing. Our first priority has been the continuity in publishing the journal. The January 2013 issue was published with a short delay only. The July issue was printed ahead of schedule, so that it could be presented at the FELASA congress in Barcelona in June.

There is good news that LAL has decided that publications from FELASA Working Group reports will have free access immediately as from the publication date, and this has already been effectuated in the July issue of *Laboratory Animals*. We thank our editor-in-chief, Prof. Dr. Beat Riederer, and Sage Publishing for their hard work since the transfer from RSM Press to SAGE Publishing.

To assist with future planning for the journal *Laboratory Animals*, a questionnaire was sent to Member Associations to find out about their membership structures and journal subscriptions, members' preferences on paper or on-line versions, the importance of PubMed and impact factor. We thank the 7 Associations that have responded so far. Not all of the responses have been received yet, but preliminary results from survey responses to date show that staying in Pub Med is considered very important, and that the height of the impact factor is considered of less importance. Some think an online only version is preferable. But because an on-line only version has the possible risk of losing some the current advertisers, this may pose a threat to the income of the journal, and in turn for the profit that is used for charity purposes. SAGE will calculate future projections on advertising income of hard copy versus an on-line version only, which will then be discussed in the Council of Management [CoM] meeting of LAL, together with the total outcome of the questionnaire.

Registered Office: 9, Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3AF UK Registered in England No 899518 Registered Charity No 261047

Laboratory Animals Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Memorandum of Association obliges the company to apply all its resources to the advancement of public education in laboratory animal science and laboratory animal science welfare and technology. It is registered charity and non of the directors may receive any fee or remuneration

Publishers of the journal *Laboratory Animals*

It is important to emphasize that the journal *Laboratory Animals* is currently being discounted by 80% to Association Members. To ensure the widest circulation of the journal, which is the main route to promote high standards of animal science and welfare, LAL would like all full members of Subscribing Associations to receive the journal. However, this can be negotiated with individual Associations. In future, LAL and Sage intend to draw up a contract with each individual Association to make the relationship between LAL and the Associations clearer for all concerned.

Finally and most importantly, we know there are concerns on the relatively high increase in membership fee for the journal *Laboratory Animals* in 2012 that was imposed by RSM Press, which was without the consent of LAL and this is, therefore, considered unacceptable. A decision was taken at the LAL AGM and CoM meeting in Barcelona in June 2013, in the presence of a representative from SAGE Publishing. In 2012, the CoM had agreed that a price increase of 5% was acceptable and reasonable, but RSM Press had charged a lot more. Therefore, it has now been decided that the current price level will be based on the 2011 member price (£ 8.75 per issue) + 5% = £ 9.19 per issue. This price is going to be charged to the Associations for 2012, 2013 and 2014. Since some Associations had already paid the increased price as determined by RSM for 2012, LAL is going to look at ways to repay the difference to the Associations and this will be advised once a decision has been reached.

We hope we have given you the necessary background information for the subscription to the journal *Laboratory Animals*. In case you haven't sent us your completed questionnaire, please do as soon as possible.

If you have any further questions, please send them to:
Penny, LAL Secretariat at lalaccounts@hushmail.com

With best regards and thank you for your continued support.

Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga
Chair of the Executive Committee of LAL