WV Hints and Tips

Welcome to Wikivet ☺

So, I've only worked at Wikivet for 9 weeks, have logged almost 300 hours of work, written 86 pages from scratch, edited another 10 or 20, created 93 sets of flashcards, integrated 3 Manson textbooks into WV and published the first WV edits onto Wikipedia pages, referencing us and our work.

This short space of time doesn't really make me a seasoned wikivet writer but I have picked up some tricks and shortcuts along the way, and thought they may help whoever takes over from me now I am off on my merry travels ☺

General Wikivetting

- I found it useful and time-saving to create a template on Word, including the skeleton of commonly used references, mine is attached:
    - This also allows you to work without an internet connection if you have mobile resources to collect information from.
    - Be aware that when doing this, hyphens and quotation marks come out differently due to Word formatting them – so if they are for internal links, you will need to delete and retype them in the Wikivet editing box – yes they do look EXACTLY the same, but it thinks they are different and we allow it its idiosyncrasies.
        - This also counts for the apostrophes you use to format – 2'' for italics and 3''' for bold – they won't work if copied from word so paste your text across to WV and add them afterwards, this also allows you to proof-read your text as you embolden the key words.
- Spaces at the beginning of lines make sentences become weird dotty blue banners – when it first appears and you don't know why, this is the explanation, delete the space and the text becomes normal again ☺
- Use as many internal links as possible to increase use and footfall of the whole WV site – every system has a page so when saying something is for example a "Respiratory Disease" in a specific species, you can put [[Respiratory Diseases - Horse|respiratory disease]] for many systems and the relevant species.
    - These also exist for all the big viral and bacterial families and anatomical structures, e.g. the equine foot – [[Equine Phalanges – Anatomy & Physiology]] (Remember that hyphen will need changing if writing in word though!)
    - Internal links are sensitive to spaces and case so if the link comes up red, make sure it is EXACTLY the same as the title of the page you want.
    - If a page you want to link to is a category, e.g. [[Category:Biting Flies]], don't write the "Category" part in, just write [[Biting Flies]], or your page will go into the biting flies category, which you probably don't want. This may not work every time as some categories were not redirected yet so for the other cases you can write

[[:Category:Biting Flies|Biting Flies]] (note the colon before the 'category' word) and it will also just link to the category page and not add the page to that category.

- Don't worry about the referencing if it seems hard at first, it soon becomes second nature
  - As a general rule a forward slash (/) means "end of" so </ref> means "end of reference" and </flashcard> means "end of flashcard".
- Write a template for flashcards too – mine is attached if you want it – this makes them really quick to write, I usually put 6-8 questions on a flashcard, with exceptions, as this seems about the right attention span for one article, but you might think differently.

Manson

- Getting the textbook content onto WV is all about copy and paste ☺ Copy the question and the answers onto wikivet or it will take much longer
- Use other templates and existing pages for everything, someone else has done the work and it's the same for every book, so use it!
  - The front cover file upload
  - The front page of every book with its content tree
  - The question pages themselves
  - The image file uploads
- Just make sure you change every part of the page to the new book, there are more than you think.
- Delete the end of each line because when you paste it over it goes all funny and looks an eyesore, even if the line looks ok, delete and put the space back in, its quicker than having to go back through the text again.
- Space out the lines to make it more readable – some of the answers are reeeeeeeeeally long and it ends up looking like a massive block of text – there is usually a natural structure to the answers so use that. Only use bullet points if it really needs them though, Chris doesn't like bullets in his Manson pages ;)
- Take out the doses because we don't publish doses on WV.

Wikipedia

- Bit of a tight-rope to walk with Wikipedia and we're still learning
- Sign up so your IP cannot be traced
- Keep your username generic so you cannot be immediately identified
- Read both pages (wikivet and Wikipedia) thoroughly and only use pages that have been expert reviewed already, although they're probably the ones you'll be asked to write anyway.
- Restructure the pages to resemble those on WV more closely to make them more readable, e.g. the "Diagnosis", "Clinical Signs" headings etc
- Don't be afraid to correct any wrong information – we DO know better lol

- Add in whole sections if they are missing, usually diagnosis and/or clinical signs – or just add to an existing section
- Reference wikivet as it is on here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bovine_ephemeral_fever as this emphasises the fact that our material is peer and expert reviewed so can be trusted.
- Do NOT put external references in the text of articles, this makes lots of scary warning messages come up threatening to shut down the site. It worked to scare me off anyway.
  - Don't worry about the pop-up that comes up when you add a reference though – it is just letting you know that they will monitor your external link usage, but if you have added info to the page then it is a bona-fide reference and doesn't seem to be a problem... Mine are still there anyway!

Enjoy the work, the wages and the great team at Wikivet, they are a pleasure to work for ☺

Steph (http://en.wikivet.net/Steph_Massey)