

Title:

Using PubMed Filters Handout

“PubMed Tutorial for Veterinarians” URL:

http://cases.vetmoodle.org/CET_CoursePlayer/demo1/public/pubmed.html

Digital collection of the documents for the “PubMed Tutorial for Veterinarians”:

<http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/158203>

Funding statement:

This project has been funded in whole or part with Federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, under Contract No. HHSN-276-2001-00007-C with the Houston Academy of Medicine – Texas Medical Center Library.

PubMed for Veterinarians: A Feline Hyperthyroidism Example

Using PubMed Filters

PubMed filters are a fast way to limit your search results without changing your search terms. They are simple to turn on and off, and you can use multiple filters at the same time. This resource provides a comprehensive list of filters accompanied by an explanation of the benefits to using each one.

Default Filters on the PubMed results screen:

Article types



- Article type limits your results by publication characteristics. *Clinical trial* and *Review* article types display by default, however, there are 71 types. Click *Customize* if you want to see, and activate, other choices.
- Most article types are defined at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/pubtypes.html>. The exception is the *Systematic review*. Choosing it runs a search to identify systematic review articles in PubMed, it combines this with your search results, and displays the collective results. The search strategy is available at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/pubmed_subsets/sysreviews_strategy.html.
- If you choose more than one article type PubMed will combine them with “OR.”
- More information: (video) http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_215.html

Publication dates



- Publication dates is a straightforward filter. You can limit your results to the most recent *5 years*, *10 years*, or a *custom date range*.
- If you search a custom date range you only need to enter the years - month and day are optional.
- Some publications have more than one publication date (electronic version and print version). Searching a range returns both. More information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_230.html

Text availability



- Choosing *Abstracts* limits the results to articles with abstracts. You might not see the most recent results if the publisher has not supplied the abstract yet. You might not see complete records for results older than 1975 because abstracts were not always included in the record.
- *Free full-text* provides results with freely available articles linked from the PubMed record. This does not identify all free full-text available online. It limits to items that the National Library of Medicine has identified and linked to.
- *Full-text* limits to results with a link to the full text article, however, linking to the full text does not indicate the article has free access. This is a convenience for journal subscribers.
- More information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_220.html

Species



- **Important: choosing *Other Animals* in this filter does not mean you've limited your results to veterinary science or clinical veterinary medicine.**
- Limiting to *Humans* limits results to studies of humans.
- Limiting to *Other Animals* limits results to studies of other animals (e.g., not humans). This includes articles reporting studies of animal models of human disease. These are often irrelevant in clinical veterinary medicine search results, but may be useful for other topics in the health field.
- More information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_240.html

Additional Filters

Subjects



- *AIDS, Cancer, and Systematic Reviews* display by default; however, there are more subject options.
- **The most relevant Subjects filter for clinical veterinary medicine searching is the *Veterinary Science* filter.** PubMed is a broad biomedical sciences database and includes information for researchers and clinicians about many species. Often the results from clinical veterinary searches include animal models of human disease. Choosing the *Veterinary Science* filter runs a search to identify veterinary articles in PubMed, combines these with your search results, and displays the collective results. Search strategy details: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/queries/veterinarymed_details.html
- The other subject filters are Bioethics, Complementary Medicine, Dietary Supplements, History of Medicine, Space Life Sciences, Systematic Reviews, and Toxicology. The *Toxicology* subject filter is also quite helpful for veterinary science and clinical veterinary medicine. More detailed descriptions of the subjects can be found here: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/pubmed_subsets.html.
- If you choose more than one subject, PubMed will combine them with “OR.” For more information about combining items with “OR” see the Boolean logic handout.
- More information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_260.html

Language



- The Language filter limits results to full text *articles* written in the language(s) you select. Most PubMed records have abstracts in English; therefore, the language filter is not necessary if you want an English version, and only need the abstracts.
- This filter can limit results to 58 languages. Also, when reading the results screen, you can identify non-English articles on sight because the article title is in square brackets, e.g., [Title].
- If you choose more than one language, PubMed will combine them with “OR.” For more information about combining items with “OR” see the PubMed and Boolean Logic PDF.
- More information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_250.html

Search fields



- The Search fields filter limits your search terms to specific fields in the PubMed record. For example, you can limit your search terms to the title or abstract of the results.
- You can limit your terms to specific fields during your initial search - it is a different technique. Here you do not specify the fields during the search and instead limit the results. This provides a larger, less specific results list but provides flexibility to see the terms in different fields.
- More information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_275.html

Journal category



- The Journal category filter limits results to preselected journal subject subset. Categories include core clinical journals, dental journals, nursing journals, and Medline.
- More information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_265.html

Sex



- The Sex filter applies to all species.
- If you choose both *Female* and *Male*, PubMed will combine them with “OR.” For more information about combining items with “OR” see the PubMed and Boolean Logic PDF.
- More information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_255.html

Ages



- The Ages filter includes 14 age categories and is applicable only to human studies.
- More information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/020_270.html