The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB; www.dacvb.org) is pleased to announce the 2022 Veterinary Behavior Symposium (VBS). The Symposium provides a forum for sharing cutting-edge, original research in the field of animal behavior. Veterinarians, applied animal behaviorists and scientists from related disciplines are welcome and encouraged to submit abstracts. Clinical case reports will also be considered for presentation and discussion.

Three monetary research awards ranging from $1000.00-$1500.00 (see below) are available for outstanding papers submitted by researchers or veterinarians.

Important Dates:
- **January 24, 2022** – All Abstract Submissions Due
- **March 21, 2022** - Program Selections Announced
- **April 11, 2022** – Speakers Confirm Acceptance/Attendance
- **May 9, 2022** - Final Proceedings Due
- **June 22, 2022** – Veterinary Behavior Symposium in Austin, Texas, USA

Meeting Content:
- Original, scientific behavioral research abstracts are delivered as brief oral presentations
- Award presentations are full length lectures
- Clinical case reports that demonstrate novel approaches to applied behavior may be included
- The official meeting language is English; translation services are not available.

Presenter Benefits
All presenters will receive half price registration for the Symposium.
Reward recipients receive complimentary registration.

*There is no travel stipend or other compensation provided.*

NEW THIS YEAR!
- There will be at least 2 time slots for virtual presentations in the program. Even if you believe you may not be able to attend in person, submit your abstract. You might be one of the chosen ones!
- Be sure to follow the instructions in the Submission guidelines carefully and note that you are submitting for a virtual presentation time slot.

Submission and review procedure:
• All submissions should be completed according to the Guidelines for Submission available at www.dacvb.org. Additional details regarding abstract submission are on the form.
• ALL SUBMISSIONS should be emailed to vbs@dacvb.org.
• Each submission will be reviewed anonymously, and evaluated according to scientific merit, originality, and interest to the discipline. See Additional Information for Submissions for details.
• An individual may submit more than one abstract; however each abstract be submitted separately.
• You may contact vbs@dacvb.org with specific questions regarding the application process.
• Submissions from practitioners and academics working either directly in the field or in related fields of interest are encouraged.
• ALL ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE NO LONGER THAN 750 WORDS.
• PLEASE NOTE THAT AUTHORS OF SELECTED ABSTRACTS WILL BE GIVEN THE POSSIBILITY TO SUBMIT A SHORTER PAPER FOR PUBLICATION IN THE VBS PROCEEDINGS. IN THIS WAY, THE PROCEEDINGS PAPER WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE ABILITY TO PUBLISH THE RESULTS IN A PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL.

Research Submissions: Each abstract should include a few sentences to place the work in context, but the majority of the abstract should be devoted to methods and results. Please include a brief conclusion at the end of your abstract. Research submissions will be anonymously judged on the following criteria:

• Relevance to the field of veterinary behavior
• Scientific rigor (soundness) of the submission
• Clear statement of hypothesis/objective
• Explanation of materials/methods
• Justification/support of conclusions
• Interest to the audience: While our audience is diverse, the largest segment of the audience is small animal private practice veterinarians with a special interest in behavior. While species will certainly play a role in the audience interest, it is NOT the sole factor. Study design, fundamental basic science questions and other factors may all impact interest level. The selection committee encourages all behavioral related research submissions.

Case Reports or Case Series Submissions: Submissions will be anonymously judged on their practical content, relevance and evidence based merit. Unusual cases or those with unique presentations are encouraged. If novel treatments approaches are to be highlighted, a series of cases utilizing the approach may be given consideration over a single case. Cases covering any species will be considered and are encouraged.

Additional Information for Submissions
In the case of work destined for journal publication elsewhere, authors may emphasize the basis of the topic with brief details of the methods and key experimental findings in order to limit the risk of jeopardizing publication. However, full experimental results should be presented at the meeting. If final proceedings are not received by the due date of May 9, 2022, the committee will assume that the paper has been withdrawn by the applicant and it will not be scheduled for the meeting.

Award Information:
The **VBS R.K. Anderson ACVB Resident Award** was established in 2005 to recognize outstanding research by those in ACVB residencies. It was created to honor ACVB Founding Member, Dr. R.K. Anderson.

- **Eligibility**
  - Applicant must meet the general submission deadlines.
  - Applicant must be a veterinarian in an ACVB approved residency or within one year of having completed an ACVB residency.
  - Papers for consideration must be in the area of **applied animal behavior**.
  - Research on any species will be considered.
  - Previous award winners are ineligible.

- **Submission Requirements**
  - The abstract must contain sufficient information regarding the hypothesis, materials and methods, data, data analysis, results, discussion and pertinent references to permit evaluation of the scientific merit of the research. Final data, data analysis, conclusions and discussion are not required in the original submission but these will be required for the final proceedings.

- **Presentations**
  - The award recipient will have an extended oral presentation at the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.

- **Award**
  - $1000 check
  - Complimentary registration to the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.
  - The award does NOT cover travel or other meeting related expenses.

The **Whitney Joy Engler Memorial Veterinary Student Research Award** recognizes exceptional research performed by veterinary students in the field of animal behavior.

- **Eligibility**
  - Applicant must be a current veterinary student.
  - Applicant must be the first author of original research in the area of applied animal behavior conducted while in veterinary school.

- **Submission Requirements**
  - Submission is to be a full paper, written in the format of Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA; [www.avmajournals.avma.org](http://www.avmajournals.avma.org)).

- **Presentation**
  - The 1st place award recipient will have an extended oral presentation at the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.

- **Award**
  - 1st Place: $1000 check.
  - Complimentary registration to the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.
  - The award does NOT cover travel or other meeting related expenses.

The **Fear Free Research Award** recognizes exceptional research investigating the prevention or reduction of fear, anxiety and stress in dogs, cats, avian and/or equines during veterinary visits.

- **Eligibility**
  - Applicant must meet the general submission deadlines.
  - Papers for consideration must directly relate to the subject of prevention, reduction or assessment of fear, anxiety and stress in dogs, cats, avian, and or equines associated
with veterinary care, including but not limited to travel, procedures, hospitalization, diagnosis and treatment.

- Submission Requirements
  - The submission abstract must follow the general guidelines for submission.
  - The abstract must contain sufficient information regarding the hypothesis, materials and methods, data, data analysis, results, discussion and pertinent references to permit evaluation of the scientific merit of the research.

- Presentations
  - The award recipient will have an opportunity for an extended oral presentation at the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.

- Award
  - $1500 check.
  - The award does NOT cover travel or other meeting related expenses.
  - Complementary registration to the Veterinary Behavior Symposium
  - Research studies that have been funded by a Fear Free grant are not eligible for award funding
GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

ALL SUBMISSIONS should be emailed to vbs@dacvb.org

Submissions should belong to one of the following categories:

**Research submission**: long (25 minutes, plus 5 minutes discussion) or short (10 minutes, plus 5 minutes for discussion) oral presentation, as assigned by the Scientific Committee and the Reviewers.

**Case Reports or Case Series submission**: short (10 minutes, plus 5 minutes for discussion) oral presentations.

An individual may submit more than one abstract, in the same or different categories; however, each abstract must be submitted separately.

All submissions will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee and Reviewers. Abstracts will be assessed based on the importance of the research, the scientific merit of the work, and the clarity of the abstract.

**Research submissions** should include the following components:

- An introduction - a few sentences introducing the study and its objectives.

- Methodology – including description of population/group studied (number, signalment, inclusion/exclusion criteria), study design, data collection, and data analysis. This may include quantitative and qualitative research. Review of published research on clinical behavior and welfare topics may be considered, but not prioritized.

- Main results - including, where appropriate (i.e. always, in case of original quantitative research), statistical tests, significance level and actual test value (e.g., F(df) = ?, p < 0.05).

- Principal conclusions and implications for the field.
**Case reports or case series submissions** should include the following:

- An introduction (signalment, anamnesis, etiology, background information regarding the case).
- Key literature review (short).
- Diagnosis, case management and evidence base.
- Principal conclusions and implications for the field.

**Abstract formatting instructions (see attached example)**

Please follow the guidelines below when submitting an abstract.

1. All abstracts should be written in US English.
2. All abstracts should be typed, single-line spaced and no longer than 750 words.
3. Use Arial font size 12 throughout.
4. First line: indicate submission type and, for research submissions, preferred length of presentation in CAPITAL LETTERS:
   a. Submission type: RESEARCH, CASE REPORT OR CASE SERIES plus VIRTUAL ONLY if you suspect you will be unable to attend in person but would like to be considered for a virtual presentation time slot.
   b. Preferred length of oral presentation (only for research submissions): LONG (25 min) or SHORT (10 min) PRESENTATION. Please keep in mind that the Scientific Committee may or may not assign your preferred length.
5. Second line: write a descriptive, concise, meaningful TITLE – in bold.
6. Third line: name of author(s). Please underline the presenting author. **If the first author is a VETERINARY STUDENT or an ACVB RESIDENT, please have the name of the first author followed by VETS for student, and RES for ACVB residents (see example).** This is essential to identify the abstracts that can compete for the awards.
7. Fourth line: address of author(s) (institution, city, country) and e-mail address of presenting author.
8. All abstracts should include a statement of any conflict of interest after the author details. This should include information about affiliations, research funders, memberships for all authors that may be taken into account by readers when evaluating the research.
9. Then leave two blank lines.
10. On the next line, the text of the abstract – no longer than 750 words.
11. Do not indent paragraphs but leave a one-line gap between paragraphs.
12. When using uncommon abbreviations, spell out in full when first mentioned, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Do not abbreviate in the title of the abstract.
13. Do not include tables or diagrams in the abstract.

14. Literature references can be listed following the APA style (for guidelines, see https://www.scribbr.com/citing-sources/citation-styles/) at the end of the text in a separate section (they will not be included in the word count). For scientific reviews, key references must be listed. References are optional for original research submissions and case reports; but if a published study is mentioned in the abstract text, its reference should be included.

Abstracts must be submitted electronically (MS Word attachment). Two copies of the abstract should be submitted, one with the authors’ names, affiliations and conflicts of interest removed for the anonymous review of the paper. Please name each of the two files according to the following criteria:

- VBS22, followed by last name and first name initials of presenting author.
- Type of submission, RES for research or CASE for case report or series.
- Type of abstract, FULL or BLIND.
- Number of abstract submission, if submitting more than one abstract (1, 2, 3…).
  - E.g. VBS21 Smith J RES FULL 1

The Scientific Committee will contact the first authors to inform them if their abstracts have been accepted. Responsibility for the program lies with the Scientific Committee, and the decisions of the Committee are final.

The authors of the papers selected will be offered the possibility to present a short version of the abstract, no longer than 250 words, to avoid interference with future publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

For questions or clarifications regarding the submission process, please contact vbs@dacvb.org.
Affiliative behaviour between cats and chimpanzees have been described (Stewart & Simmons, 2010). The goal of the study submitted is to compare the affiliative interaction of cats with baboons and donkeys.

1,500,000 cases of cats living with donkeys and baboons were evaluated by a referral behaviour service of a North American university veterinary hospital. Interactions between the animals were recorded using a digital camera (Bubble Tea 123, Eldorado, USA). Behaviours were categorized as states or events and analysed using the software DreamerEye 5.0 (Lollypop Technologies, Wakanda, Africa). Statistical significant differences were calculated using a multivariate model in the software CrunchTheNumbers 3.4 (Hogwarts, UK). Cats exhibited more dancing (P<0.01) and partying (P<0.03) with baboons when compared to the same behaviours exhibited with donkeys.

Cats exhibited more affiliative behaviours with baboons than donkeys. Acquiring a baboon may enhance the quality of life of your cat.

References