The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB) is pleased to announce the 2024 Veterinary Behavior Symposium (VBS).

This year’s meeting will feature 2 FULL DAYS of behavior! There will be something for everyone – and everything for someone!

The Symposium’s Scientific Research Day provides a forum for sharing cutting-edge, original research in the field of animal behavior. Come for ‘the big reveal’! -- all the cool stuff coming down the pike.

The Symposium’s Clinical Applications Day translates science into action with practical topics to put to use right away. Full information to be announced separately.
SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT for the Scientific Research Day.

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.

Submission and Review Procedure:

- All submissions should be completed on the Official Submission Form available at www.dacvb.org. Additional details regarding abstract submission are on the for
- ALL SUBMISSIONS should be emailed to vbs@dacvb.org
- You may contact vbs@dacvb.org with specific questions regarding the application process.
- Each submission will be reviewed anonymously, and evaluated according to scientific merit, originality, and interest to the discipline.
- An individual may submit more than one abstract; however each abstract should be submitted separately.
- We welcome submissions from practitioners and academics working directly in the field or in related fields of interest.
- 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.

WWW.DACVB.ORG
**Important Dates**

- January 2, 2024 – All Abstract Submissions Due
- March 2, 2024 – Program Selections Announced
- March 29, 2024 – Speakers Confirm Acceptance/Attendance
- April 19, 2024 – Final Proceedings Due
- June 4, 2024 – VBS- Scientific Research Day

**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.

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Abstracts: Key Points:

- 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.
- **WORD LIMIT: 750 words or less for all abstract submissions.**

- 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.
  - Applicability to the field of applied animal behavior, clinical animal behavior, or veterinary applications for behavioral science.
  - 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.

Submitting for Publication?

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 April 19, 2024, the committee will assume that the paper has been withdrawn by the applicant and it will not be scheduled for the meeting.

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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 opportunity to give an extended oral presentation at the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.

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

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**
  - 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.

- **Presentation**
  - The award recipient will have an opportunity to give an extended oral presentation at the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.

- **Award**
  - $1000
  - 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.

### Presentation
- The award recipient will have an opportunity to give an extended oral presentation at the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.

### Award
- **$1000**
- Complimentary registration to the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.
- The award does NOT cover travel or other meeting related expenses.
- Research studies that have been funded by a Fear Free grant are not eligible for award funding.
Connect. Learn. Recharge.

June 4, 2024
Minneapolis, Minnesota