

Scientific Paper Session Call for Papers

The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists is pleased to announce the 2027 Veterinary Behavior Symposium's (VBS) Scientific Paper Session (SPS) to be held on **July 14, 2027** in **Minneapolis, Minnesota**, USA. The SPS provides a forum for sharing cutting-edge research in the field of animal behavior. Veterinarians, applied animal behaviorists, and researchers from related disciplines are encouraged to submit abstracts related to original research and/or clinical case/case series reports for brief oral presentation and/or poster presentation. Priority given to relevant, original research for oral presentations.

Important Dates

- **February 1, 2027** – Abstract submissions due
 - **March 15, 2027** – Presenters notified of acceptance status
 - **March 31, 2027** – Speaker acceptance/attendance confirmation deadline
 - **April 15, 2027** - Final proceedings abstract due
 - **June 15, 2027** – **FIRM DEADLINE** - **Final slide decks** uploaded to Dropbox
 - **July 14, 2027** – Veterinary Behavior Symposium's Scientific Paper Session with Scientific Poster Session
-

Meeting Content

- Research and case reports abstracts are delivered as brief oral presentations.
 - Award winning abstracts are delivered as extended oral presentations.
 - Scientific posters are displayed all day with a 30-min presenter session.
 - The official meeting language is English; translation services are not available.
-

Presenter Benefits

- All presenters will receive half price registration for the Scientific Paper Session.
 - Award recipients receive complimentary registration for the Scientific Paper Session.
 - There is no travel stipend nor other compensation provided.
-

Submission and Review Procedure

- All submissions should be completed on the Official Submission Form.
- Each submission will be reviewed anonymously, and evaluated according to scientific merit, originality, and interest to the discipline. See **Additional Information for Submissions** for more details.
- An individual may submit more than one abstract; however, each abstract must be submitted separately. Submissions here: <https://bit.ly/acvbvbs2026folder>
- You may contact info@dacvb.org with specific questions regarding the application process.

- Submissions from practitioners and academicians working either directly in the field of clinical animal behavior or in related fields of interest are encouraged.
 - **WORD LIMIT = 750 WORDS.**
 - **FINAL PROCEEDING ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED AFTER ACCEPTANCE MAY BE SHORTER TO ACCOUNT FOR POTENTIAL PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATION RESTRICTIONS.**
 - Please note you are asked for preference of paper or poster presentation, but the final decision lies with the scoring and committee decisions.
-

Research Presentation 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**. For clarity: submissions should include Introduction, Hypothesis/Objective, Methods and Results/Conclusion sections to be reviewed for scoring. References are encouraged to be included and are not reviewed as part of word count. 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
 - 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 such as species 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 treatment 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. Each submission should include information that **places the case(s) in context as to why it is worthy of a presentation based on the published body of work, treatment provided and results in the case/case series**. References are encouraged as justification of relevance to the published body of reference.

Scientific Poster Submission

Poster presentations may be used to summarize research projects, reviews, practical tips, or case reports amenable to visual presentation as a single poster. In order to ensure that posters receive the full attention of attendees and to allow authors the opportunity to verbally expand on their work, a dedicated poster session will occur during the conference. Posters should remain available for viewing throughout the Scientific Paper Session day. Presenters are *encouraged*, but not *required*, to leave their posters set up through the following day's events on July 15th (Practical Behavior Forum), and to remove them after the lunch session. Posters not removed by 3pm on July 15th, will be discarded.

Posters Will be Evaluated According to the Following Criteria

- Relevance of the work to the field of veterinary behavior medicine
- Intellectual content of the work
- Potential implications of the work to the field of veterinary behavior medicine

Poster Presenter Benefits

- All Poster presenters will receive half price registration for the Scientific Paper Session.
- There is no travel stipend nor other compensation provided.

Poster Session Guidelines

Poster Board Location:

Poster boards will be located on the main floor of the venue adjacent to the lecture hall.

Posters should be set up Wednesday July 14, 2027, between 7:30 – 8:00am. Please check in at the conference registration desk to be directed to the poster area. Important: Please bring your own pushpins.

Authors will be asked to stand with their posters to answer attendee questions during the specified "poster session" break on July 14th. Leaving your poster in place for viewing on June 15th is encouraged but not required. All posters should be removed by 3pm on July 15th.

Guidelines for Preparing Your Poster

Each presenter is provided with an easel and a foam core board on which to pin their poster. The foam core board is 2' x 3'. Poster orientation is at the discretion of the author. Posters exceeding the provided space are prohibited. The presentation must cover the material as cited in the abstract.

- Place the title of your paper prominently at the top of the poster board to allow viewers to identify your paper.

- Highlight the authors' names and contact information in case the viewer is interested in more information.
- Prepare diagrams or charts legibly in a size sufficient to be read at 2 meters/6 feet away from the poster.
- Paragraph and figure captions should be at least in a 24-point font (0.9 cm height) and headers at least in a 36-point font (1.2 cm height). Be creative by using different font sizes and styles, and color.
- When working with graphs or charts, use different colors and textures/symbols for each line or bar.
- Use a serif font (e.g., Times New Roman) or a non-serif font (e.g., Arial or Helvetica)
- Organize the presentation so it is clear, orderly, and self-explanatory.
- Use squares, rectangles, circles, etc., to group similar ideas. Avoid cluttering your poster with too much text. Label different elements as I, II, III; or 1, 2, 3; or A, B, C, making it easier for a viewer to follow your display.
- Include the background of your research, followed by materials and methods, including statistical methods, results and conclusions. Successful poster presentations depend on how well information is conveyed to an interested audience.

NOTE: Authors of poster abstracts are asked to provide a digital copy of their poster, which will be linked to their abstract in the conference program and proceedings. If you wish to have your poster included in the proceedings, please share your digital copy as a single **PowerPoint slide by April 15, 2027**. If the research is intended for peer-reviewed publication, please verify poster publication is acceptable to the journal prior to sending the slide in for submission.

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 ARE REQUIRED to be presented at the meeting and ready by the due date of the PowerPoint. Contributors who are not confident that results will be finalized by the time of presentation, are encouraged to submit their work as a poster instead. Final proceedings are due no later than **-April 15, 2027**. If not received, the committee will assume that the paper has been withdrawn by the applicant, and it will not be scheduled for the meeting.

ACVB Memorial Grant Information

The ACVB Memorial Foundation Grant is NEW in 2026 and established to encourage participation in the presentation of novel research in the field and presentation at ACVB's Scientific Paper Session!

Eligibility

- Applicant must meet the general submission deadlines.
- Papers for consideration must be in the area of applied animal behavior.
- Research on any species will be considered.
- Previous grant winners and concurrent award winners for the same year are ineligible for this award.

Submission requirements:

Please indicate if you would like to be considered for this grant, if your research is accepted for a poster or spoken present. The funds are intended for use as support of your research (pay towards a statistician, for example) or travel to present the abstract or poster. Indication is given as a **200 word count or less** description of why you would like to present at VBS SPS.

Presentations

- The award recipient is expected to provide an oral or poster presentation at the Scientific Paper Session.

Grant

- \$500
 - The grant will be considered for those that complete the eligibility requirements AND who do not receive another award.
-

Award Information

VBS R.K. Anderson ACVB Resident Award

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 for this award

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 and presentation.
- Those wishing to be considered for an award must so indicate on the submission form (see check box) and list all Diplomates involved in the research.

Presentations

- The award recipient is expected to provide an extended oral presentation at the Scientific Paper Session.

Award

- \$1,000
 - Complimentary registration to the Scientific Paper Session.
 - The award does NOT cover travel or other meeting-related expenses.
-

Whitney Joy Engler Memorial Veterinary Student Research Award

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 and presentation.
- Those wishing to be considered for an award must so indicate on the submission form (see check box) and list all Diplomates involved in the research.

Presentation

- The award recipient is expected to provide an extended oral presentation at the Scientific Paper Session.

Award

- \$1,000
 - Complimentary registration to the Scientific Paper Session.
 - The award does NOT cover travel or other meeting related expenses
-

Fear Free Research Award

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 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.
- Authors with Fear Free Grant funding of their research are not eligible for this award.

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.
- Final data, data analysis, conclusions and discussion are not required in the original submission, but these will be required for the final proceedings and presentation.
- Those wishing to be considered for an award must so indicate on the submission form (see check box) and list all Diplomates involved in the research.

Presentations

- The award recipient is expected to provide an extended oral presentation at the Scientific Paper Session.

Award

- \$1,000
- The award does NOT cover travel or other meeting-related expenses.
- Complementary registration to the Scientific Paper Session.
- Research studies that have been funded by a Fear Free grant are not eligible for other funding awards

ACVB Memorial Fund Grant

- \$500
- On the submission form, please indicate if you would like to be considered for this grant, if your research is accepted for a poster or spoken presentation. The funds are intended for use as support of your research (pay towards a statistician, for example) or travel to present your abstract or poster. Indication is given as a 200 word count or less description of why you would like to present at VBS SPS. *Only eligible if you have not previously won this grant in the past.