



**2020 VETERINARY BEHAVIOR SYMPOSIUM
CALL FOR PAPERS
Preceding the ACVIM Forum 2020
Baltimore, Maryland USA
June 10, 2020**

The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB; www.dacvb.org) is pleased to announce the 2020 Veterinary Behavior Symposium (VBS). The Symposium provides a forum for sharing cutting-edge, original research in the field of animal behavior. Veterinarians, applied animal behaviourists 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 19, 2020** – All Abstract Submissions Due
- **March 8, 2020** - Program Selections Announced
- **March 29, 2020** – Speakers Confirm Acceptance/Attendance
- **April 12, 2020** - Final Proceedings Due
- **June 10, 2020** – Veterinary Behavior Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Meeting Content:

- Original, scientific behavioral research abstracts are delivered as long (25 minutes) or short (10 minutes) oral presentations
- Clinical case reports that demonstrate novel approaches to applied behavior may be included and will be presented as short oral presentations (10 minutes)
- Award presentations (see below) are full length (25 minutes) lectures
- The official meeting language is English; translation services are not available.

Presenter Benefits

All presenters will receive half price registration for the Symposium.
Award recipients receive complimentary registration.
*There is **no** travel stipend or other compensation provided.*

Submission and review procedure:

- All submissions should be completed following 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 must 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 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 and/or approaches are to be highlighted, a series of cases utilizing the approach may be given consideration over a single case. Cases covering any species (domestic and wild) will be considered and are encouraged.

Additional Information for Submissions

Original abstracts submitted will not be automatically published in the 2020 VBS proceedings, and Authors of accepted papers will be given the possibility to publish shorter abstracts (in the proceedings). 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 12, 2020**, 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 and guidelines.

- *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.
- Presentations
 - The award recipient will have a long oral presentation (25 minutes) 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 should follow the general guidelines and deadlines.
- 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 reduction of fear, anxiety and stress in dogs and cats.

- Eligibility
 - Applicant must meet the general submission deadlines.
 - Papers for consideration must directly relate to the subject of reduction of fear, anxiety and stress in dogs and cats.
- 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 (25 minutes) 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