



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

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**

ALL SUBMISSIONS should be emailed to [vbs@dacvb.org](mailto: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
  - 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:

- VBS20, 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. VBS20 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](mailto:vbs@dacvb.org).