

Zoo and Wildlife Health Conference

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



Submission Deadline for 2026 ZWHC: 21st of December 2025

Submission System

We will be using the Oxford Abstracts submission platform again this year. Submissions by other means will not be considered. If you need more information regarding the platform, please see the “Guidance for Submitters” content on the OA Knowledge Database, including how to make and edit a submission, how to create a second submission, and how to see your reviews: <https://help.oxfordabstracts.com/knowledge/support#guidance-for-submitters>

Types of manuscripts

All submissions are eligible for oral or poster presentation. Submission may be in one of the two formats below:

- **Short abstract:** Maximum 250 words, no subheadings. Literature references are optional but allowed (maximum of 4 references) and should be entered in the “References” text box (therefore not counting to the 250 word limit). Equipment and drug information can also be entered into the “References” text box (see instructions below). Figures and tables are not allowed. Authors wishing to pursue publication in peer-reviewed journals are advised to use this option to avoid potential conflicts in the future.
- **Extended abstract:** Maximum 1000 words in total, subheadings are optional (Summary, Introduction, Materials and Methods or Case Report, Results, Discussion and Conclusions, Acknowledgements). Literature references are mandatory (maximum of 10 references) but are excluded from the word count, and should be entered in the “References” text box.

Formatting

Submissions must be written in British English.

Materials mentioned in the text (equipment and drugs) should be followed by the manufacturers' name and country, specific information on concentration, dosing, and other relevant details for the readers. The author can elect to include this information in the designated “References” text box, therefore not counting to the 250 word limit. In that case, materials should be followed by a **superscript letter** in the text, which should appear at the beginning of the list. Dosages should be given in clearly defined quantities, for example, mg/kg body weight.

The text should be written in Microsoft Word or equivalent program, and then copied and pasted into the corresponding boxes on the abstract submission platform. The title must be in **all capital letters**, including scientific names (no italics).

For extended abstracts, figures and tables require a brief explanatory caption, and mention of the photographer or copyright holder. Figures and tables must be submitted with the text by copying and pasting into the submission platform.

References:

- **Citations in the text should include the authors' names in all capitals followed by the year of publication, both between parentheses.** Examples for one author (HILDEBRANDT, 1982); two authors (PAUL-MURPHY and MOLTER, 2019); and more than two authors with first author's name and “*et al.*” (BERLIN *et al.*, 2019)
- The reference list that is pasted on the References box, should have the authors' names in **all capitals** and the rest in normal font, justified, like shown on the examples below. The list should include all literature cited



in the text and the names of all authors involved (**authors not cited in the text should not appear in the list of references**). Please comply with following examples:

Journal article:

BERLIN E, THURBER MI, LAMBERSKI N (2019): Review of veterinary intervention in reproduction of captive Western lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) from 1996 to 2016. Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine 50(3), p.539-546

Book chapter:

PAUL-MURPHY J, MOLTER C (2019): Overview of animal welfare in zoos. In: Miller RE, Lamberski N, Calle PP (eds.), Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine, Current Therapy, Vol 9. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier, 2019, p.64-72

Proceedings paper:

PANNRUCKER C, SCHWARZENBERGER F (2022): The effects of animal transfers on the reproductive success of female white rhinoceroses (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) kept in European zoos. In: Proceedings of the Zoo and Wildlife Health Conference 2022. Emmen, the Netherlands, 25-28 May, p.45

Abstract review process

All submissions will be reviewed by independent reviewers using a double-blinded process. The reviewers will then make recommendations for acceptance or rejection to the Scientific Program Committee (SPC), and for improvement to the authors. Please find some details below:

- Reviewers score submissions on scientific writing, relevance, scientific validity, and originality based on a scoring rubric. You can find the **ZWHC 2026 Scoring Rubric** on the [EAZWV website here](#).
- The submission should make a meaningful contribution to the scientific program and continuing education of our members and attendees, and should not already be well represented in the literature.
- Submissions regarding the management of single cases (case studies) should provide substantive and significant clinical, pathological or research information, such as the use of novel therapeutics or diagnostics.
- Abstracts will be given a low score and recommended for rejection if only an outline is provided or if the abstract states "data will be presented" or "subject will be discussed".
- Submissions of work that has already been published may be accepted, but the presentation should not have been given at a previous conference, in oral or poster format.
- Multiple submissions by the same author will be considered. However, as our policy is to give the possibility to present to as many registrants as possible, there will be a maximum of two oral presentations per first author and/or presenting author (if scores allow it).
- Proposals constituting sales pitches for products or services will not be considered.
- The highest-scoring abstracts will be the basis for building sessions around common themes.

Important dates and further requirements

Submissions, either oral or poster, **must be presented by a conference participant**. If none of the authors is attending the conference, the submission will not be accepted. **All presenting authors must register for the conference by the 8th of February 2026. If you have not done so, your submission will be withdrawn.** Please understand this is a requirement as EAZWV is a not-for-profit association, our conference is run to break even financially, and these early registrations help cover the initial costs.

By the **1st of February 2026**, authors will receive an email informing if their paper has been **provisionally** accepted or rejected for oral or poster presentation, and if there are any revisions required. Deadline for re-submission after revisions will be the **15th of February 2026 (2 weeks)**. **Revisions are the responsibility of authors, and all comments and corrections made by the reviewers must be considered.** If you do not implement the suggested changes, or provide reasons not to do so, your submission might be rejected upon re-evaluation by the reviewers. Only abstracts received on time will make it into the final conference program.

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Authors accepted for poster presentations will be required to **submit a high-resolution pdf file of their poster**, to feature in the Online Poster Gallery, by the **3rd of May 2026**. Poster presenters are also encouraged to record a 2-minute video presenting the poster (see below). We recommend you take advantage of this opportunity.

Presentation types

- **Oral Presentations:** These consist of a 10-minute talk followed by 3 minutes of questions and answers. A total of 2 minutes will be reserved to allow for a smooth transition between speakers. This event will be livestreamed, and recordings of the presentations will be made available to participants for a limited period.
- **Poster Presentations:** Posters must be in portrait format, max. 120 cm (height) x 84 cm (width). Posters will be presented in person and be made available electronically to conference participants for a limited period. Poster presenters are required to submit a high-resolution pdf file of their poster, and bring a printed copy of their poster to the conference venue. **Poster presenters are also encouraged to record a 2-minute video presenting the poster**, which will feature on the Online Poster Gallery next to the poster. The video needs to be uploaded on YouTube or Vimeo by the author, and the link submitted in the designated text box before the conference starts. This is an optional feature, but we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

“From the Field”

If you are or will be working in the field during the conference, and the work submitted is related to free-ranging wildlife, this year you will be able to apply, once again, to deliver a “From the Field” presentation.

“From the Field” presentations provide a platform for professionals **working in challenging or remote conditions** who face significant barriers to attending the conference in person, and contribute to EAZWV’s mission of **improving the health, welfare and conservation of free-ranging wildlife**.

Abstracts will be subjected to the same evaluation criteria as all others. Once selected, the SPC will review your “From the Field” application, according to **previously defined criteria and a specific scoring matrix** which includes logistical necessity, uniqueness of contribution, and technical feasibility. There will be a limited number of “From the Field” presentations each year (usually no more than 3).

“From the Field” presentations are delivered live via videocall (10 minutes presentation + 3 minutes Q&A). Please note that in-person presentation will be expected if one of the co-authors is attending the conference in person.

Please explain why you should be considered for a “From the Field” presentation in the designated text box of the submission form. The SPC will contact you regarding your application after the selection process is completed.

Final notes

The purpose of this conference is to present new work, knowledge and reviews that will be useful to those working in the field of zoo and wildlife health.

Submission of a manuscript implies that its publication has been approved by all authors, as well as by the responsible authorities at the institution where the work was carried out (tacitly or explicitly). The author signs for and accepts responsibility for releasing this material on behalf of any and all authors.

Submissions of work that has already been published may be accepted but the presentation should not already have been given at another conference. If the work submitted has been previously published, or is submitted/in press elsewhere, the author must provide a **“reprinted with permission”** statement from the other organisation.

If figures that have already been published elsewhere are included, the author must obtain permission from the copyright owner(s) for both the print and online format. Please be aware that some publishers do not grant electronic rights for free, and that EAZWV will not be able to refund any costs that may have occurred to receive these permissions. In such cases, material from other sources should be used.

The author provides the publisher the permission to use any materials in their submission. The author affirms that the publication of any such materials such as photographs does not interfere with any copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity, or proprietary right of another party. In the event of a claim, action, or proceeding based upon an alleged violation of the author's representations or warranties, the publisher will not be held responsible.



Zoo and Wildlife Health Conference Ethics and Welfare Statement

All material to be presented at the Zoo and Wildlife Health Conference, formally or informally, must adhere to high ethical standards concerning animal welfare. Abstracts will be considered for presentation only if the work described:

- Follows international, national and institutional guidelines for the humane treatment of animals and comply with relevant legislation;
- Where it concerns the experimental manipulation of animals, have been approved by the ethics review committee at the institution or practice at which the studies were conducted, when such a committee exists;
- Have been approved by all authors (applies to presentations and publications at the conference);
- For studies using client-owned animals, privacy should be maintained, and the information should be anonymised.

The SPC retains the right to reject manuscripts on the basis of ethical and welfare concerns. Participants concerned about the ethical basis of work undertaken by their peers should discuss it with the author and/or the SPC.

If you have any questions regarding your submission, please contact submissions@eazwv.org and we will do what we can to help.