



**2018 VETERINARY BEHAVIOR SYMPOSIUM  
CALL FOR PAPERS  
Preceding the AVMA Annual Convention  
Denver, Colorado USA  
July 12, 2018**

The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB; [www.dacvb.org](http://www.dacvb.org)) is pleased to announce the 2018 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 are available for outstanding papers submitted by researchers or veterinarians. Details about these awards including eligibility and submission criteria are described below.**

**Important Dates:**

- **January 24, 2018 – All Abstract Submissions Due – UPDATED!!**
- **March 21, 2018** - Program Selections Announced
- **April 11, 2018** – Speakers Confirm Acceptance/Attendance
- **May 9, 2018** - Final Proceedings Due
- **July 12, 2018** – Veterinary Behavior Symposium in Denver, Colorado, USA

**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.*

**Submission and review procedure:**

- All submissions should be completed on the Official Submission Form available at [www.dacvb.org](http://www.dacvb.org). Additional details regarding abstract submission are on the form.
- ALL SUBMISSIONS should be emailed to [vbs@dacvb.org](mailto: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 be submitted separately.
- You may contact [vbs@dacvb.org](mailto: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.

**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 small animal private practice 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 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.

### **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 should be presented at the meeting. If final proceedings are not received by the due date of **May 9, 2018**, 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.
  - *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 submission abstract must be between 2-3 pages in length. (Proceedings published abstract can be shorter to avoid risk of jeopardizing publication.)
- Note: Applicants for the Resident award may include a shorter 500-word abstract for inclusion in the final proceedings if there is a concern that future publication might be jeopardized.
- 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 extended oral presentation 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 is to be a full paper, written in the format of Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA; [www.avmajournals.avma.org](http://www.avmajournals.avma.org)).
- Presentation
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> place award recipient will have an extended oral presentation at the Veterinary Behavior Symposium.
- Award
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 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 be between 2-3 pages in length.
  - 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 for an extended oral presentation 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