

Guidance for writing your abstract

An abstract is a succinct overview of your research. It should be interesting and capture the attention of the reader. As a guide an abstract would normally consist of the following:

1. **Title and Author information:** The title should capture the attention of readers convincing them that the topic is relevant, important and innovative to Veterinary Nursing. The names of *ALL* authors (including supervisors) and their institution/practice must be listed.
2. **Introduction:** It can be useful to begin by including an interesting and specific fact about your research or clinical audit. Provide a concise review of what is already known and how your project will help to fill any gaps. Lastly you should outline the reasons for undertaking your study or consider the hypothesis.
3. **Methods:** This can be a large section to condense into the abstract and as a guide should be three-four sentences. You should provide enough information to judge the validity of the work and aim to include details of the number of people/animals enrolled in the study, the selection process, the method of research and the research setting. Any interventions or variables should be highlighted along with the statistical method used to analyse the collected data.
4. **Results:** Describe the subjects included in the research and any exclusion's (if applicable). List the occurrences of the important outcome variables. If applicable present comparisons of the outcome variables between different subgroups (i.e. Young vs. old, male vs. female) Tables should not be included (and will not be accepted) within the abstract, however numerical results should be discussed, if the study is part of academic research (rather than a clinical review or audit) you should include standard deviations and the level of statistical significance.
5. **Conclusion:** What can be concluded? The conclusion should be supported by the data you have included. What are the implications and what effects does this have to veterinary nursing, animal welfare, your working environment or the wider profession?

Please note maximum word count (excluding title) should not exceed 500 words.