

Research Bites

Guidelines for writing an abstract – research projects

What is an abstract?

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

1. **Title and author information:** The title should capture the reader's attention. If the research was novel, highlight this in the title too. The names of *ALL* authors (including supervisors if appropriate) and their institution/practice must be listed. The contact email of the primary (usually the submitting author) should also be provided.
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. **Method:** This can be a large section to condense into the abstract and as a guide should be three to 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 exclusions (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:

- The maximum word count of your abstract (excluding title) should not exceed 500 words.
- The deadline for abstract submissions is **Tuesday 30th June 2020**.
- Your abstract will be peer-reviewed. Following acceptance by reviewers, research projects and case reflections will be shortlisted for presentation at BVNA Congress 2020.
- If your submission is shortlisted, you will be invited to the Saturday of BVNA Congress 2020, and asked if you would like to deliver an oral presentation alongside your poster. You will

receive notification of this decision by **Friday 31st July 2020**. Your abstract will also be published in the VNJ.

- If selected for presentation, you will be required to submit a PDF file of your poster, and a Powerpoint file of your presentation (if applicable) by **Friday 11th September 2020**. Please refer to BVNA's Guidelines on Producing a Poster and Presentation for further details.
- Your poster will be displayed within the exhibition throughout BVNA Congress 2020, and you will deliver your oral presentation (if applicable) on **Saturday 10th October 2020**.

All successful applicants will receive free registration to BVNA Congress on Saturday 10th October 2020, and will be able to access a wide variety of lectures and the commercial exhibition. All applicants are required to attend the Research Bites event where abstract presentations will commence (regardless of whether presenting or not).

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Charlotte Bullard (BVNA Education Manager) at charlotte@bvna.co.uk.