

# Detailed Application Instructions and Criteria 2022

## Wildlife Disease Association Student Poster Award

### About:

This award acknowledges outstanding student poster presentation of research findings at the annual international WDA conference. The overall winner of the Best Student Poster Presentation receives a plaque and US\$350 (to offset conference expenses). The second-place winner (Honorable Mention) receives a plaque and US\$350 (to offset conference expenses).

### Deadline:

The deadline for submission of student abstracts to be considered for this award will be identical to the deadline set for the non-student abstracts. The deadline for the call for abstracts for oral and poster presentations is the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### Applicant Eligibility:

Applicants must be **students AND members of the WDA**. Confirm your WDA membership status or join WDA now

#### Definition of a student

Enrolled in a graduate student program at least half-time **or** is participating full-time in an internship or residency program which is approved for credit towards board certification or a graduate degree.

### Application Criteria and Process:

To be considered for this award at the conference, eligible students **must submit an abstract and select YES to the following questions** on the abstract submission form available via the annual international WDA conference website to have your abstract considered for the student oral presentation competition.

- Are you a student?
- Are you a current member of the WDA?
- Would you like to enter the WDA Student Presentation Award competition?

Student status and WDA membership status will be double checked. If you are not a student or a WDA member at the time of abstract submission, your abstract will be considered for the general presentation session and will not be considered for this award.

In addition, the student must be must also available to present their research to the annual international WDA conference audience during the student poster presentation session. If the student (presenting author) is not available to present, they must withdraw their abstract. Co-authors cannot present on behalf of the student presenting author, regardless of their student status.

The student abstract should follow the general abstract guidelines as outlined on the annual international WDA conference website. In addition, students submitting abstracts to be considered

for the student presentation awards should read the **Student Abstract Scoring Criteria** (see pg. 3-4 below) and **Poster Presentation Scoring Criteria** (see pg. 5 below) prior to submitting an abstract. These criteria will be used to score abstracts on a competitive basis to determine which will be chosen for the conference.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

1. Students can submit as many abstracts as they like.
2. A maximum of ONE abstract will be accepted per student for each presentation modality (e.g. maximum of 1 oral presentation and 1 poster presentation per student). If a student has submitted multiple abstracts and multiple abstracts score high enough to be accepted for presentation, the top-ranking abstract will be selected.
3. Only the top 30 poster abstracts will be eligible to be judged at the conference for the Poster Presentation Award. Student abstracts that do not make the top 30, may still be selected to present at the conference if space allows but will not be judged for the student poster presentation award. You will be notified as to whether your poster has been 1) accepted for presentation and 2) if it has been selected for judging at the conference.
4. WDA aims to accept as many poster presentations as possible. However, as poster space may be limited, not all poster abstracts will be accepted.
5. If you indicate that you wish for your abstract to be considered for the student competition and it is not selected, your abstract will NOT be considered for presentation for the general sessions.

OPTIONAL: FOR IN-PERSON CONFERENCES, STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING AT LEAST 8 COPIES OF AN A4 VERSION OF THEIR POSTER TO PROVIDE TO JUDGES IF REQUESTED.

## Abstract And Poster Scoring Criteria

### Student Poster Abstract Scoring Criteria

- A. Student abstracts which do not present a scientific study organized in the manner listed in criteria (under C) are not eligible. Subheadings are not necessary, but each of these topics must be addressed in the abstract.
- B. Abstracts will be divided into oral and poster presentations groups for scoring. Those not awarded an oral presentation but who indicate in their submission that both oral and poster presentation options are acceptable will be further considered in the poster scoring lists.
- C. **Students will be scored on the following criteria with a numerical score: 5 (excellent), 4 (very good), 3 (good), 2 (average), 1 (poor), 0 (unacceptable)**
1. **Background** – the abstract must provide an adequate introduction and background to set the stage for the study. **(max 5 points)**
  2. **Hypothesis or Objectives** – the abstract must list hypothesis(es) to be tested (as applicable) or the objectives of the research, in a clear and concise manner. **(max 5 points)**
  3. **Materials and Methods** – the abstract must present the methods used in a clear and concise manner. The methods must be adequate to test hypothesis(es) and address objectives of study. **(max 5 points)**
  4. **Results** – the abstract must report results that relate directly to methodology and are presented in a clear and concise manner. **(max 5 points)**
  5. **Conclusions** – the abstract must include conclusions that are sound, logical, and supported by data presented in the results section. Management implications should be presented, where appropriate. **(max 5 points)**
- D. **Two additional criteria with a different scoring system will be assessed: 3 (meets the criteria very strongly), 2 (meets the criteria to some extent), 1 (meets the criteria in a limited way), 0 (does not meet the criteria)**
1. **Innovation** - the study involves an important novel approach or addresses a novel topic using new designs, methods, hypothesis, etc. **(max 3 points)**
  2. **Significance** – the research relates to a significant problem in the wildlife health/wildlife disease arena with internationally

recognized relevance or of extreme local/regional importance.  
**(max 3 points)**

**E. Criteria for refusal of abstracts:**

- Abstracts that do not conform to submission guidelines listed above are to be refused.
- Abstracts that score 2 or more ZEROS or are below a total of 6 points for the first 5 criteria (total of 25 points) are to equally be excluded from oral or poster presentation regardless of classification on criteria 6-7.

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Students can obtain a maximum of 25 points from criteria 1-5 plus an additional 6 points for criteria 6 and 7 to a grand total of 31 points. A final score will be calculated as the mean of the individual judge's scores.

## Student POSTER Presentation Scoring Criteria

- A. During the Student Poster Presentations, students are requested to be by their poster to answer questions and interact with the judges.
- B. Students will be scored on the following criteria with a numerical score: 5 (excellent), 4 (very good), 3 (good), 2 (average), 1 (poor), 0 (unacceptable)
1. **Background** – the poster provides adequate introduction and background to set the stage for the study. **(max 5 points)**
  2. **Hypothesis/Objectives** – the poster lists the hypothesis(es) to be tested and objectives of study are presented in a clear and concise manner. **(max 5 points)**
  3. **Methods** – the poster presents the methods clearly and concisely and the methods are adequate to test hypothesis(es) and address objectives of study. **(max 5 points)**
  4. **Results** – the poster presents the results in a clear and concise manner and the results are directly related to methodology. **(max 5 points)**
  5. **Conclusions** – the poster includes conclusions that are sound, logical, and supported by data presented in results section. **(max 5 points)**
  6. **Visual Aids** – the poster is well organized, logical, easily read and interpreted, and figures/images/tables are adequate, large enough, appropriate, and of high quality. **(max 5 points)**
  7. **Style and student “knowledge”** – poster’s style is in accordance with general peer-reviewed manuscript format and overall is balanced and pleasing to the eye. The student is interactive and demonstrates sound knowledge of the contents of the poster. **(max 5 points)**
- a) **One additional criterion with a different scoring system will be assessed:**
8. **Innovation/Significance** – the study involves a novel approach or addresses a novel topic, and/or relates to a significant problem in the wildlife health/wildlife disease arena. **(3-meets the criteria very strongly, 2-meets the criteria to some extent, 1-meets the criteria in a limited way, 0-does not meet the criteria)**

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Students can obtain a maximum of 35 points from criteria 1-7 plus an additional 3 points for criteria 8 to a grand total of 38 points. A final score will be calculated as the mean of the individual judge’s scores.

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