



British Veterinary Zoological Society

VIC SIMPSON MEMORIAL AWARDS

Details of the award:

The late Vic Simpson left a legacy to BVZS to promote and support research by BVZS members into conditions that affect free-living British wildlife. Although his wishes were not binding, he specifically requested of BVZS Council (paraphrase, actual letter on file):

- 1 The money should be 'ring fenced' to ensure that it is used entirely to promote and support research into conditions that affect free-living British wildlife.
- 2 Financial support should be offered to BVZS members for their work on British wildlife. This could take the form of a grant towards the cost of presenting a paper at a conference or publication charges.
- 3 Council should also feel free to use the funds for other purposes as they see fit providing this follows the principal objective of supporting research on British wildlife.
- 4 Priority should be given to applicants who have limited means or work largely at their own expense.

After discussion in 2019, BVZS Council agreed that this money will be used to fund up to two annual awards (the 'Vic Simpson Awards') to allow BVZS members to attend and present work focused on British wildlife at the annual BVZS conference as part of the Wildlife Health Day. Priority will be given to those who financially might otherwise be unable to do so.

Purpose:

To support British free-living wildlife health research, through the opportunity to attend and make an oral presentation of research findings at the BVZS conference.

Application guidelines:

- A maximum of two grants will be awarded each year. If there are no suitable applicants, then an Award in a given year will not be made.
- Applicants must be BVZS members
- Those eligible to apply:
 - Undergraduate and postgraduate (MSc, PhD, resident) students studying veterinary medicine or related subjects, where financial support to attend the conference is not available from their institutions.
 - Professionals (wildlife veterinarians, veterinary nurses, biologists) active in the field, where financial support for the conference is not available from their institution/employer/employment





- Presentations focused on wildlife disease investigation in British native species will be prioritised. Presentations on other aspects of wildlife health will also be considered provided they have a clear application to conditions which affect free-living British wildlife – eligibility will be at the discretion of the grant awarding committee.
- The grant awarding committee will be made up of three BVZS members, chosen by Council, who either had a personal connection to Vic Simpson and/or work in the field of British wildlife health. The committee will judge applications against the specific eligibility criteria above and use their discretion in deciding whether and which applicants are eligible for an award. The decision of the awarding committee will be final.
- The organisers of the BVZS conference and/or the Wildlife Health Day of the BVZS conference will liaise with the committee about the awards directly, each year.
- Applications for the grants will be open at the time of abstract submission for the Wildlife Health Day and BVZS members will be given information regarding the grants at the same time as a 'call for abstracts' is made.
- Abstracts must first be accepted for an oral presentation by the Wildlife Health Day organising committee (part of BVZS Council and the Conference organising Committee).
- Those applicants that have been accepted for an oral presentation and are eligible for the grant, will be passed on to the grant awarding committee whose decision will be final.
- The successful award applicant(s) will be notified of this, by the Wildlife Health Day organising committee, at the same time as notification of acceptance of an abstract for oral presentation.
- The recipient of the grant must attend the annual conference for which the grant is awarded (i.e. the next conference) and grants cannot be transferred.
- The recipient of the grant will be asked to provide an extended abstract of their presentation (1500-2000 words, following the guidelines on the BVZS website) which will be included in the conference proceedings.

Award winners:

- Will have registration for the Wildlife Health Day of the BVZS conference paid for and travel costs within the UK (i.e. standard class return train fare or by car at £0.45 pence per mile, whichever is the most cost effective).
- A certificate of achievement will also be awarded.

