Guidelines for preparation of abstracts

Abstracts should be clear, concise, and an adequate scientific reference also to those readers not attending the conference. The described research should add to scientific understanding, meaning that it will be judged on its degree of novelty. The hypothesis should be clearly described, and the set-up should allow to test it.
The fundamental approach (problem, hypothesis), the methodological principle including statistical methods and the main findings should be summarized on one page. The last one or two sentences should provide a conclusion.
Abstracts of studies including invasive, potentially painful or stressful events should have the agreement of an established ethical committee, and should adhere to FELASA guidelines (www.felasa.eu).
Studies should preferably not have been presented at other international conferences or already published. In such cases, the authors should inform the scientific committee the latest at the time of submission.

The abstract may not exceed one page including figures and tables. Pages are not to be numbered.

Please arrange the abstract in the following order:

Title:
The abstract title should be centred and written in Times New Roman, 12 point font and bold letters.
Insert one single spaced line between title and authors.
Authors should be centred and written in Times New Roman, 10 point font. The first name(s) should be given in initials. Authors' affiliations should be centred and written in Times New Roman, 10 point font. The e-mail address should be given from the corresponding author, written in Times New Roman, 10 point font and in italics.

Text:
One single-spaced line should be inserted between the beginning of the text and the e-mail address of the corresponding author.
The text of the paper should be single spaced with a left margin of 2.5 cm and a right margin of 2.5 cm, whereas top and bottom should be 2.0 cm, respectively. Times New Roman 12 point font should be used and the text should be written in block.
The text should be divided under the following headings (bold): Introduction; Animals (if animals were used), material and methods; Results and discussion, Conclusion.

References: The references should be written in Times New Roman, 10 point font. They can be abbreviated, but should contain enough information to be clearly identified.

Example:

Guidelines for ESVCN abstract

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Introduction: Considerable knowledge exists mainly about the effect of single influencing factors on lameness. However, lameness depends on the complex influence of all environmental factors out of housing, management, human-animal relationship and animal-related parameters on the animal. The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of those complex interactions and to search for the relative importance of single factors.
Animals, material and methods: On 80 dairy farms (Simmental cows) with cubicle loose housing influencing factors (housing, management, human-animal-relationship) and animal-related indicators of animal welfare (social behaviour, body condition score, adrenocortical activity) were recorded during a two half-day farm visit in winter months. For statistical analysis, multivariate analysis (regression trees) were calculated.
Results and discussion: The quality of the cubicle floor turned out to be the most important factor influencing lameness: with straw higher than 2 cm and cow comfort mats a lower percentage of lame cows can be expected. In case of insufficient quality of the cubicle floor, the next important parameter identified was the position of the neck rail: a neck rail diagonal greater than 1.94 m appeared as positive. Whereas on farms with good floor quality in the cubicles, walking areas which were at least partly made from solid concrete floor type, were mostly associated with a lower percentage of lameness. Further influencing factors related with a lower percentage of lameness were a duration of cow-calf contact for several hours, the existence of an outside run, a percentage of thick cows less than 31%, a space allowance larger than 8.6 m^2, a lying-animal relation of > 1.06 and a kerb height < 0.22 m. Beyond it management factors like the way of integration heifers into the herd and a management which takes care of the welfare of cows were related with less lameness. The human-animal relationship (positive and neutral interactions during milking, the farmers' attitude to the animals) appeared furthermore as an important factor influencing lameness.
Conclusion: In conclusion, different factors out of housing, management, human-animal relationship and animal-related parameters are influencing lameness and their relative importance was found. Therefore it is necessary to optimize all those different aspects to enhance the welfare and health of cows by reducing lameness problems.
References: 10 point font