SVSTS Guidelines for Listserv Use to Acquire Research Cases

Article II of the Society of Veterinary Soft Tissue Surgery is restated below.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Society are:

1. The advancement of the art and science of soft tissue surgery.
2. The encouragement of its members to pursue original investigations, to report unusual cases, and to discuss diagnosis, management and advances of soft tissue surgical conditions.
3. The encouragement of its members to contribute to continuing education in soft tissue surgery and to report in high quality veterinary journals.

The society objectives support the use of our list serve to acquire cases for research purposes. The current executive committee has the sole authority in approving study design, granting permission to post on the SVSTS list serve, and/or providing recommendations to improve the study design prior to it being posted.

Study design: see the outline below.

Responsibilities of Primary Investigator:

In order to utilize the SVSTS list serve for the purpose of case acquisition, the primary investigator shall be a member in good standing of the SVSTS. The SVSTS organization is not limited to specialists; thus, any DVM investigator would be eligible to submit cases.

The primary investigator should note if they or one of their peers will be the first or senior author. The primary investigator must provide a spreadsheet or other data collecting template for ease of submission and uniformity of data collection by participating members.

We request that there is a target window for when the study is open (start date) and when it will close (end date). We request a proposed timeline for when the primary investigator will submit the manuscript for peer review and which journal is being targeted up front in the proposal.

We request that case submission materials be sent directly to the investigator and not sent through the list serve as the inboxes will become cumbersome with sequential messages.

Further, it would be desirable for the SVSTS to be acknowledged in the manuscript in one of the following locations:

1) In the project title, as exampled here:

   Maxwell EA, Dugat DR, Waltenburg M, Upchurch D, Soto-Elias P, et al. Outcomes of dogs undergoing immediate or delayed surgical treatment for gastrointestinal foreign body obstruction: A retrospective study by the Society of Veterinary Soft Tissue Surgery. Vet Surg 2021 Jan;50(1):177-185.

2) In the manuscript acknowledgements section, or
3) In the materials and method section.

We gratefully request (not require) that the primary investigator or an affiliated peer/author present the completed data at a future SVSTS conference.

Concerning individuals contributing cases: Members that contribute ≥10% of the case material for a study should be listed as authors in the order of the number of cases contributed to the study. When multiple contributors are present at one institution, the institution will be asked to provide the author most responsible for case accrual and contribution. All other contributors will be acknowledged for their assistance with the study.

SVSTS List Serve Research Proposal Submission Format

I. **Title**

II. **SVSTS member submitting the proposal, stating institutional affiliation.**

III. **Aims and objectives of the study**

IV. **Background and significance**

V. **Detail of pilot work or preliminary results**

VI. **Experimental Design**

a. Brief description
b. Patient eligibility
    1. Disease criteria
        1. species
        2. disorder/injury
        3. specific biochemical markers
        4. specific diagnostic testing
        5. other
c. Health criteria
    1. cardiac function
    2. renal function
    3. blood counts
    4. other
d. Patient ineligibility criteria
    1. concurrent diseases
    2. pregnancy
    3. previous treatments
        1. radiation therapy
        2. chemotherapy and/or immunotherapy
        3. other
e. Treatment endpoints
    1. Disease resolution/recurrence
    2. Survival
    3. Censoring indicators (lost to follow-up, death for other reasons that disease or treatment, onset of ineligibility criterion)
f. Anticipated complications and outcome
g Criteria for stopping treatment
h Patient follow-up schedule and parameters to be measured at follow-up
i Duration of study
j. Statistical design and power of the study

VII. Data Collection Form