

CASE STUDY TEMPLATES

Case studies provide "a detailed and rich story" (Patton, 2015, p. 259) focused on an event, person, or other phenomena of interest. As the writer of a case, you can use a variety of methods and sources of data to write your case. For example, journal notes, observations, recording of an intuitive interspecies communication (IIC) session, interviews, photographs and so forth. We have provided a set of guiding questions that can support you in sketching out key elements that are important to highlight for cases involving IIC.

The templates below are designed to provide guidelines for writing case studies on IIC in various contexts (e.g. veterinary medicine, wildlife, service animals, etc.). The notes below apply to all cases.

Consent and Confidentiality: As you write your case, do not provide any identifiable information about any third-party participants (others who were involved in the study) unless you have explicit permission to do so. It is wise to keep a written copy of any permission offered. Where you do not have consent, you will need to carefully consider whether it is appropriate to share the case, and if you do so, may need to change some information (e.g. locations, species of animal) to maintain this confidentiality. The ethical duty of confidentiality includes obligations to protect information from unauthorized access, use or disclosure. Fulfilling the ethical duty of confidentiality is essential to the trust relationship between researcher and participant, and to the integrity of the research project. For more information, consult the Canadian guidelines at: ([TCPS 2: Chapter 5](#))

Length: Depending on the purpose details provided, and the depth of reflections, a case study often averages around 1000 words. They can, however, be much longer and more detailed.

A Work in Progress: These templates are drafts that we are developing for future IIC case study research. We welcome feedback and suggestions at any time! Email: multispecies.symposium@usask.ca with *Case Study* in the subject line.

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COMPANION ANIMAL CONTEXT

About you:

- First name
- Last name
- # of years practicing animal communication
- Speciality by animal (if applicable)
- Speciality by context (e.g. behaviour, health, end of life, in spirit, etc.)

Permissions/Confidentiality:

When you submit, you will be asked to indicate whether you:

- Acquired permission to share information that may identify individuals other than yourself **OR**
- Anonymized the case so that individuals other than yourself are not identifiable. This may include, for example: replacing names with pseudonyms, changing place names, and in some cases, changing the gender or species of animal(s) involved).

Also:

- Please indicate which of the above you have done, either in the introductory section of the case, or in a footnote.

About the Case:

- How did you become involved in the case and what led up to it?
 - What was your role/objective in the case?
 - Who invited you (i.e. animal's guardian, trainer, veterinary professional)?
 - Who all received the finding results (i.e. client only, client and vet, etc.)?
- Animal description (i.e. species, breed, age, rescued, adopted, time living with client)
- History of the concern
 - Describe the behavioral/medical history and current concerns
 - May also include client's concerns, especially if the animals is in spirit
- When did this case happen? (If you remember, include the month and/or year)
- What data are you using to write your case? For example: Are you writing from memory? Were your details documented at the time in journal notes, transcripts, recordings, conversations, etc.? Include a sentence or more to describe where the information came from.
- Geographical location

- Where was the animal's physical location during the time of the communication?
 - Where was your physical location during the time of the communication.
- What did you do (be as detailed as possible)?
 - How did you interact with the client or other involved parties?
 - How did you interact with the animal?
 - How did you obtain consent from the animal?
 - Did you communicate remotely or in person (i.e. video call, email, phone, etc.)?
 - How did the animal share information (i.e physical sensations, images, a knowing, etc.)?
 - Details about how you conducted the communication (i.e. Did you ask specific questions and/or did you structure those questions in a particular way?)
 - What did you do with the information you received?
- The outcome(s) of the case (if known), including unintended consequences (positive, negative, neutral) for the animal, client, or other individuals involved
- Relevant timelines that may help the audience understand the timing of events
 - Consider including a timeline
 - Were the communications completed in one session or multiple session over time?
- Did you use any particular ethical codes during this case? Describe them and how they affected your practice and interactions with others involved.
- Other details you feel that are particularly relevant.

Discussion/Implications:

- Were there any lessons learned?
- Did you have any key takeaways? We encourage you to discuss challenges, tricky spots, failures and successes - as these all help us learn.
- How might this case be relevant to ACs who are working with veterinary professionals?
- How might this case be relevant to others working in different contexts or fields (for example, animal care providers)?

VETERINARY CONTEXT

About you:

- First name
- Last name
- # of years practicing animal communication
- Speciality (if applicable - e.g. type of animal)

Permissions/Confidentiality:

When you submit, you will be asked to indicate whether you:

- Acquired permission to share information that may identify individuals other than yourself **OR**
- Anonymized the case so that individuals other than yourself are not identifiable. This may include, for example: replacing names with pseudonyms, changing place names, and in some cases, changing the gender or species of animal(s) involved).

Also:

- Please indicate which of the above you have done, either in the introductory section of the case, or in a footnote.

About the Case:

- When did this case happen? (if you remember include the month and/or year)
- What data are you using to write your case. For example: Are you writing from memory? Were any of the details documented at the time in journal notes, transcripts, recordings, conversations, etc. include a sentence or more to describe what information came from where.
- Geographical location (refer to questions regarding consent and identifiable information)
- How you got involved with the case and what led up to it;
 - What was your role in the case?
 - Who invited you/brought you into the case? (i.e. the client, the veterinary professional, etc.)
 - Who were you sharing your communication findings with? (i.e. the client, the veterinary professional, etc.)
- Patient description (i.e. species, breed, age, domestic/wildlife/zoo aquarium/farm/food/service)
- History of present illness and prognosis

- Information about relevant medical history and diagnostics
- What you did - be as detailed as possible
 - Interactions with any other involved humans
 - Interactions with the involved animal (intuitive communication and any other additional interactions), including whether it was a remote or in-person communication or both
 - The information you received from the animal and what you did with that information
- The outcome(s) of the case (if known), including any unintended consequences (positive, negative, neutral) for animals, humans, or veterinary professionals involved
- Relevant timelines that may help the audience understand the timing of events Consider including a timeline.
- Other details you feel are particularly relevant
- Did you use any particular ethical codes during this case? Describe them and how they affected your practice and interactions with others involved.
- You may also wish to provide:
 - Details about your process for doing the communication
 - How you attained consent from the animal

Discussion/Implications:

- Were there any lessons learned?
- Did you have any key takeaways? We encourage you to discuss challenges, tricky spots, failures and successes - as these all help us learn.
- How might this case be relevant to ACs who are working with veterinary professionals?
- How might this case be relevant to others working in different contexts or fields (for example, animal care providers)?

WILDLIFE CONTEXT

About you:

- First name
- Last name
- # of years practicing animal communication
- Speciality (if applicable)
- Do you provide your written consent to be identified in your case study?

Permissions/Confidentiality:

When you submit, you will be asked to indicate whether you:

- Acquired permission to share information that may identify individuals other than yourself **OR**
- Anonymized the case so that individuals other than yourself are not identifiable. This may include, for example: replacing names with pseudonyms, changing place names, and in some cases, changing the gender or species of animal(s) involved).

Also:

- Please indicate which of the above you have done, either in the introductory section of the case, or in a footnote.

About the Case:

- Animal species involved, and whether it was one animal or a group of animals;
- Country and habitat of animal species (including whether they are free roaming);
- How long ago this case happened (if you remember include the month and/or year)
- What data are you using to write your case. For example: Are you writing from memory? Were any of the details documented at the time in journal notes, transcripts, recordings, conversations, etc. include a sentence or more to describe what information came from where.
- How you got involved with the case and what led up to it;
- The purpose of the project and/or the purpose of your involvement
- What you did:
 - interactions with any other involved humans
 - interactions (other than the intuitive communication) with the involved animals

- your intuitive communication(s) with the animal(s), including whether it was a remote or in-person communication
- the information you received from the animal and what you did with that information
- The outcome(s) of the project or case (if known), including any unintended consequences (positive, negative, neutral) for animals, humans, or organizations involved;
- How might this project be relevant to those working in diverse relevant fields (including land managers, conservationists, animal care providers)?
- Did you use any particular ethical codes during this case? Describe them and how they affected your practice and interactions with others involved.
- Other details you feel are particularly relevant.
- You may also wish to provide:
 - Details about your process for doing the communication
 - How you attained consent from the animal

Discussion/Implications:

- Were there any lessons learned?
- Did you have any key takeaways?
- How might this case be relevant to other ACs who are working in wildlife contexts?
- How might this case be relevant to other ACs working in diverse relevant fields (for example, veterinarians, animal care providers, etc.)?

SERVICE ANIMALS, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS AND THERAPY ANIMALS CONTEXT

About you:

- First name
- Last name
- # of years practicing animal communication
- Speciality (if applicable - e.g. type of animal)

Permissions/Confidentiality:

When you submit, you will be asked to indicate whether you:

- Acquired permission to share information that may identify individuals other than yourself **OR**
- Anonymized the case so that individuals other than yourself are not identifiable. This may include, for example: replacing names with pseudonyms, changing place names, and in some cases, changing the gender or species of animal(s) involved).

Also:

- Please indicate which of the above you have done, either in the introductory section of the case, or in a footnote.

About the Case:

- When did this case happen? (if you remember include the month and/or year)
- What data are you using to write your case. For example: Are you writing from memory? Were any of the details documented at the time in journal notes, transcripts, recordings, conversations, etc. include a sentence or more to describe what information came from where.
- Geographical location (refer to questions regarding consent and identifiable information)
 - If in-person, type of setting where the communication took place (home, senior's centre, farm etc.)
- How you got involved with the case and what led up to it;
 - What was your role in the case?
 - Who invited you/brought you into the case? (i.e. the client, the veterinary professional, etc.)

- Who were you sharing your communication findings with? (i.e. the client, the veterinary professional, etc.)
- Animal background (i.e. species, breed, age, domestic/wildlife/zoo aquarium/farm/food/service)
 - What specific situation is the animal trained for?
 - If known, what certification or training method was employed with the service animal?
 - How many people are actively involved with the animal beside the person (family members, caretakers etc.)?
- History of present illness and prognosis
- Contextual information (why was the service animal involved)
- What you did - be as detailed as possible
 - Interactions with any other involved humans
 - Interactions with the involved animal (intuitive communication and any other additional interactions), including whether it was a remote or in-person communication or both
 - The information you received from the animal and what you did with that information
- The outcome(s) of the case (if known), including any unintended consequences (positive, negative, neutral) for animals, humans, or veterinary professionals involved
- Relevant timelines that may help the audience understand the timing of events Consider including a timeline.
- Did you use any particular ethical codes during this case? Describe them and how they affected your practice and interactions with others involved.
- Other details you feel are particularly relevant.
- You may also wish to provide:
 - Details about your process for doing the communication
 - How you attained consent from the animal

Discussion/Implications

- Were there any lessons learned?
- Did you have any key takeaways? We encourage you to discuss challenges, tricky spots, failures and successes - as these all help us learn.
- How might this case be relevant to ACs who are working with veterinary professionals?
- How might this case be relevant to others working in different contexts or fields (for example, animal care providers)?

FOOD ANIMAL CONTEXT

About you:

- First name
- Last name
- # of years practicing animal communication
- Speciality (if applicable - e.g. type of animal)

Permissions/Confidentiality:

When you submit, you will be asked to indicate whether you:

- Acquired permission to share information that may identify individuals other than yourself **OR**
- Anonymized the case so that individuals other than yourself are not identifiable. This may include, for example: replacing names with pseudonyms, changing place names, and in some cases, changing the gender or species of animal(s) involved).

Also:

- Please indicate which of the above you have done, either in the introductory section of the case, or in a footnote.

About the Case:

- When did this case happen? (if you remember include the month and/or year)
- What data are you using to write your case. For example: Are you writing from memory? Were any of the details documented at the time in journal notes, transcripts, recordings, conversations, etc. include a sentence or more to describe what information came from where.
- Type of food animals involved (livestock, poultry etc.)
- Geographical location (refer to questions regarding consent and identifiable information
 - If in-person, type of setting where the communication took place (industrial facility, cages, farm etc.)
- How you got involved with the case and what led up to it;
 - What was your role in the case?
 - Who invited you/brought you into the case? (i.e. the client, the veterinary professional, etc.)
 - Who were you sharing your communication findings with? (i.e. the client, the veterinary professional, etc.)

- History of present illness and prognosis
- Information about relevant medical history and diagnostics
- What you did - be as detailed as possible
 - Interactions with any other involved humans
 - Interactions with the involved animal (intuitive communication and any other additional interactions), including whether it was a remote or in-person communication or both
 - The information you received from the animal or animal group and what you did with that information
- The outcome(s) of the case (if known), including any unintended consequences (positive, negative, neutral) for animals, humans, or veterinary professionals involved
- Relevant timelines that may help the audience understand the timing of events
 - Consider including a timeline.
- Did you use any particular ethical codes during this case? Describe them and how they affected your practice and interactions with others involved
- Other details you feel are particularly relevant
- You may also wish to provide:
 - Details about your process for doing the communication
 - How you attained consent from the animal

Discussion/Implications:

- Were there any lessons learned?
- Did you have any key takeaways? We encourage you to discuss challenges, tricky spots, failures and successes - as these all help us learn.
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OTHER CONTEXTS

Please review the other context-specific templates and draw on the questions that are most relevant for you.

REFERENCES

(2022). *Case Studies*. Merck Veterinary Manual.

<https://www.merckvetmanual.com/pages-with-widgets/case-studies?mode=list>

Patton, M. Q. (2015). *Qualitative research and evaluation methods* (4th ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Thomas, G. (2021). *How to do your case study* (3rd Edn.). Sage.

AUTHORSHIP AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The first draft was based on Sydney Kuppenbender's case study framework developed for her Master's research focusing on IIC and wildlife: *Bringing Animal Voices to the Table: Interspecies Communication Methods in Land Management*. Once we receive ethics approval from the University Research Ethics Board, you will also be able to consult her study framework and view her university-approved consent form [here](#).