

Shelter Medicine Case Summary Grading Sheet (2026)

Note: For shelter medicine case summaries, depending on the SMP category and subject it is sometimes useful to think of the shelter or the shelter population as the patient rather than an individual patient. Remember shelter medicine clinical practice includes individual animals and population level practices and recommendations.

	4 pts	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt	0 pts
Title	Title accurately describes the contents of the case summary. Title clearly indicates which one of the 14 major SMP categories is reflected in this case summary		Title somewhat describes the contents of the case summary.		Title does not accurately describe the contents of the case summary. Title does not indicate which one of the 14 major categories is reflected in this case summary.
Introduction	Complete, concise, and thorough description of the typical history and presentation, differential diagnoses, and diagnostic approach.	Mostly complete and thorough description of the typical history and presentation, differential diagnoses, and diagnostic approach. 1-2 significant omissions present.	Somewhat complete description of the typical history and presentation, differential diagnoses, and diagnostic approach. More than 2 significant omissions	Minimal description of typical history and presentation, differential diagnoses, and diagnostic approach. Many significant omissions.	Description of the typical history and presentation, differential diagnoses, and diagnostic approach are incomplete or missing.
Treatment/ Management/ Prognosis	Complete synopsis of treatment and management options for the clinical problem or diagnosis, and current recommended therapies/procedures. Includes relevant medical principles in the management of shelter animals and/or community populations.	Mostly complete synopsis of treatment and management options for the clinical problem or diagnosis; most of the current recommended therapies/procedures are discussed. Mostly complete in presentation of shelter/population medical principles. 1-2 significant omissions present.	Somewhat complete synopsis of treatment and management options for the clinical problem or diagnosis; some of the current recommended therapies/procedures are discussed. Presentation of shelter/ population medical principles is provided but missing some aspects. More than 2 significant omissions.	Minimal synopsis of treatment and management options for the clinical problem or diagnosis, Few current recommended therapies/procedures are discussed. Missing key information regarding shelter or population medical principles. Several significant omissions.	Synopsis of the treatment and management options for the clinical problem or diagnosis are incomplete or missing. Recommended therapies/procedure s/ population level approaches are not current or are missing.
Case history and Presentation	Complete brief description of the patient or population, the chief complaint, and relevant history and clinical findings.	Mostly complete description of the patient or population, the chief complaint, and relevant history and clinical findings.	Somewhat complete description of the patient or population, the chief complaint, and relevant history and clinical findings.	Minimal description of the patient or population, the chief complaint, and relevant history and clinical findings.	Description of the patient or population, the chief complaint, and relevant history and clinical findings are

	<p>Includes basic information about the population setting (e.g. shelter's intake, housing, and population) or other population characteristics pertinent to the case.</p> <p>Clearly describes the author's role in the case.</p>	<p>Includes most information about the population setting and characteristics (e.g. shelter's intake, housing, and population) to understand the population aspects of the case.</p> <p>The author's role is described.</p> <p>1-2 significant omissions present.</p>	<p>Somewhat complete population setting and characteristics and the author's role.</p> <p>More than 2 significant omissions</p>	<p>Minimal description of the population setting and characteristics (e.g. shelter's intake, housing, and population) and unclear presentation of the author's role.</p> <p>Many significant omissions.</p>	<p>incomplete or missing.</p> <p>Information about the population setting and characteristics and the author is missing.</p>
Case management	<p>All relevant recommendations, procedures, medications, complications, comorbidities, and justification for deviations from standard procedure are discussed. Outcome includes patient or case outcome, results of clinical procedures or medical management, and full follow up of the case.</p> <p>Highlights significant differences, challenges, or considerations that may exist regarding the management and outcome of the case in a shelter-housed animal/population compared to that of an animal in a typical home environment.</p>	<p>Most of the relevant recommendations, procedures, medications, complications, comorbidities, and justification for deviations from standard procedure are discussed. Outcome includes most of the information for patient or case outcome, results of clinical procedures or medical management, and full follow up of the case.</p> <p>Highlights most of the significant differences, challenges, or considerations that may exist regarding the management and outcome of the case in a shelter-housed animal/population compared to that of an animal in a typical home environment.</p> <p>1-2 significant omissions present</p>	<p>Some of the relevant recommendations, procedures, medications, complications, comorbidities, and justification for deviations from standard procedure are discussed. Outcome includes some patient or case outcome, results of clinical procedures or medical management, with partial follow up of the case.</p> <p>Missing significant differences, challenges, or considerations that may exist regarding the management and outcome of the case in a shelter-housed animal/population compared to that of an animal in a typical home environment.</p> <p>More than 2 significant omissions.</p>	<p>Very few of the relevant recommendations, procedures, medications, complications, comorbidities, and justification for deviations from standard procedure are discussed. Outcome includes minimal patient or case information, results of clinical procedures or medical management, and minimal follow up of the case.</p> <p>Minimal discussion of significant differences, challenges, or considerations that may exist regarding the management and outcome of the case in a shelter-housed animal/population compared to that of an animal in a typical home environment.</p> <p>Several significant omissions.</p>	<p>Relevant recommendations, procedures, medications, complications, comorbidities, or justification for deviations from standard procedures are incomplete or missing. Patient or case outcome, results of clinical procedures or medical management, as well as any case follow are incomplete or missing.</p> <p>Does not highlight significant differences, challenges, or considerations that may exist regarding the management and outcome of the case in a shelter-housed animal/population compared to that of an animal in a typical home environment.</p>
Discussion and critique	<p>Constructive evaluation of case deficiencies, mistakes, and/or complications. Able to identify potential changes to be made in future cases.</p> <p>Demonstrates ability to learn from an imperfect</p>	<p>Mostly constructive evaluation of case deficiencies, mistakes, and/or complications. Able to identify potential changes to be made in future cases.</p> <p>Demonstrates ability to learn from an imperfect</p>	<p>Somewhat constructive evaluation of case deficiencies, mistakes, and/or complications. Moderate ability to identify potential changes to be made in future cases.</p>	<p>Minimal constructive evaluation of case deficiencies, mistakes, and/or complications. Minimal changes discussed for future cases.</p>	<p>Does not critically evaluate case deficiencies, mistakes, and/or complications. Unable to identify potential changes to be made in future cases.</p>

	case. New material has not been added.	case. Minimal new material may have been added. 1-2 significant omissions present.	Demonstrates some ability to learn from an imperfect case. New material may have been added. More than 2 significant omissions present.	Minimal demonstration of ability to learn from an imperfect case. Significant new material may have been added. Many significant omissions present.	Does not demonstrate ability to learn from an imperfect case. Significant new material has been added.
References	At least one (1) reference but no more than five (5) references from available literature, preferably peer-reviewed although well-regarded textbooks may also be included		References are listed, but more current, applicable, or specific references are readily available		No references, more than 5 references, or inappropriate references are used.
Labs, Data & Imaging – for shelters these can be summary tables, figures, photos, etc. (at least 1 is required)	Lab results/ Data/ Imaging are labeled, legible, relevant to the case and in chronological order at the end of the document.		Lab results are present in the report, but not entirely relevant to the case or could be more clearly displayed or described in the case summary.		Lab results/ Data/Imaging are not labeled, are illegible, are not relevant to the case and/or are not in chronological order at the end of the document.
Overall impression A	Case difficulty commensurate with an ABVP diplomate level of practice. Document effectively demonstrates applicant’s ability to thoroughly work-up a case and follow it from beginning to end.				Case difficulty is not commensurate with an ABVP diplomate level of practice. Document does not effectively demonstrate applicant’s ability to thoroughly work-up a case and follow it from beginning to end.
Overall impression B	Overall structure and presentation of the document has minimal organizational, grammatical, or spelling errors and is of professional quality. Effectively communicates all relevant case information in a succinct manner.				Overall structure and presentation of the document has multiple, significant, organizational, grammatical, or spelling errors and is not of professional quality. Fails to communicate all relevant case information in a succinct manner.

Case Summary Scoring Chart

Section	Weighted percent	Points awarded (0-4)	Total points (points X section weight)	Total possible points for section
Title	2.5			10
Introduction	5			20
Treatment, Management & Prognosis	20			80
Case History & Presentation	20			80
Case Mgmt & Outcome	20			80
Discussion & Critique	25			100
References & Endnotes	2.5			10
Lab Data & Imaging	5			20
Overall impressions A	Yes/No		Need a YES in this section or entire CS does not pass	
Overall impressions B	Yes/No		Need a YES in this section or entire CS does not pass	
Word Count is 1,700 – 2,000	Yes/No		Need a YES in this section or entire CS does not pass	
<u>Formatting Criteria</u> 1. PDF file format 2. Times New Roman, Arial or Helvetica font 3. 11 or 12 font size 4. 1” margins 5. Labs, Tables & Figures located in chronological order in	Yes/No		A 5-point deduction to the overall score of the case will be assessed for each formatting criteria that does not meet requirements	

a section at the end of the paper				
		*Any sections marked 0 will fail the paper		400

Requirements for a case summary to pass:

- 1) Minimum score of 70% (280 out of 400 points)
- 2) No individually graded section received a score of “0”
- 3) Both overall impressions sections (A & B) received a “Yes”
- 4) Total document word count is 1,700 – 2,000 words (not including references, endnotes, tables or figure descriptions)