



## CAB Abstracts via SilverPlatter

CAB Abstracts, updated monthly, is an applied life science research bibliographic database covering original research publications, reviews and authoritative discussions since 1973. Examples of disciplines covered include animal production, animal and human nutrition, genetics, medical and veterinary parasitology, and veterinary medicine. Over 9,000 serials, books, conferences and technical reports are monitored internationally for inclusion, with over 150,000 new records added annually.

Accessing CAB Abstracts (CAB) from the HSL Home page or the Electronic Databases web page opens CAB to the [Advanced](#) search window, which includes two main areas: the top portion used for creating new search statements, and the bottom area, which begins with displaying search hints, then switches to displaying the search results or the session search history.

The screenshot shows the ERLWebSPIRS 5 search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Search, SDI, Database Guide, Help, and Logout. Below this is a search bar with tabs for Search, Advanced, Thesaurus, Index, and Search History. A dropdown menu for 'How do I...?' is visible. The main search area contains three search boxes with the following terms: 'cat-\* or cats-\* or Felidae' in 'SUBJECT HEADINGS(SU)', 'diabetes' in '( Terms anywhere )', and an empty box in '( Terms anywhere )'. Below the search boxes are options for 'Combine Using' (AND, OR, NOT) and a 'Search' button. At the bottom, there is a table of search results:

Search	Results	Display	Create SDI
#3 ( #1 )and( #2 )	2		
#2 JOURNAL-OF-THE-AMERICAN-VETERINARY-MEDICAL-ASSOCIATION	12834		
#1 ( (horses* or horse-breeding or equus*) in SU )and( frozen semen and fertil* )	90		

### SEARCHING

- Enter a term or multiple terms (as a phrase or with the terms linked by the connectors *and*, *or*, *not*, *adj*, *with* or *near*) in the same or separate search boxes, modify to search a specific field (Author(s) (AU), Subject Headings (SU), Title (TI), or many others) or leave it to search for 'Terms anywhere', and click **Search**. A set of citations fitting your search criteria is created and displayed, with the search statement and the number of records found indicated near the top of the results.

**Note:** Enter an author as last name, hyphen, initial, hyphen, initial. Truncate after the hyphen if the initials aren't known; after the first initial if the author might use additional initials: *Travis-\**. Searching with hyphens in other fields adds precision.

- Alternatively, authors, journal titles, and other

specific fields can be searched using field codes in the search boxes under the [Search](#) or [Search History](#) tabs. Type the word or phrase followed by 'in', then the two letter field code – "*Chinese journal of veterinary medicine in so*" finds the phrase in the source field, while "*delphinidae in od,bt*" searches for the term as an organism descriptor or a broad term. Complex search statements can be created this way: "*(Equus-\* or horse?) in id,bt,de,od and frozen-semen in su and fertil\**".

- For field code descriptions, click [Database Guide](#) in the top red bar and scroll down part way with the left bar to "Fields in CAB Abstracts", and click the arrows to the right of those of interest.

### CONNECTORS, TRUNCATION, etc.

\* matches words that have the same beginning as the search term  
 ? replaces one or no characters within or at the end of a word  
 and results contain all terms connected  
 or results contain at least one of the terms connected  
 not results contain the first but not the second term  
 adj results contain terms adjacent in exact order  
 with results contain both terms in the same field  
 near results contain both terms in the same sentence  
 nearn results contain both terms within *n* number of words

log\*=log, logged, loganberry ...  
 colo?r=color or colour ; eye?=eye, eyes  
 actin and cytoskeleton  
 coffee or tea or caffeine  
 horse? not zebra  
 horses adj bred ('horses bred' finds either order)  
 Chinese with veterinary in so  
 nutrition near tea  
 chocolate near3 nutrition

Periods in text, commas, colons, apostrophes and question marks should be left out of search terms; treat a slash as a space.

### LIMITING

To the right of the input search terms is the phrase "No search limits set" or "Search limits are set," followed by two buttons, **Change** and **Clear**. The **Change** button opens the [Change Limits](#) page. The values selected here (years, languages, publication types) limit searches created while the settings are in place. The limits currently in place are displayed on the [Change Limits](#) page. Click the **Clear** button to discontinue limiting in future searches, or the **Change** button to modify the limits.

## THESAURUS and INDEX

- Click the [Thesaurus](#) tab at the top of the search box to find controlled terms used in the descriptors (DE), geographic headings (GE) and organism descriptors (OD) fields. Enter your concept term in the Term: box and click [Go to Terms](#). Terms similar alphabetically to the one input (including British spellings) will display with terms related in meaning next to them. Check those wanted and click [Search Marked](#) or [Explode Marked](#). Both search for records with the marked terms, but the latter also searches for records that contain terms one level narrower. The matching citations are displayed.
- The broad terms (BT) field uses thesaurus terms also, but it isn't searched in the [Thesaurus](#). Search it as well if your search term is a broader term for another, for example, Felidae for all the cat species.
- Older records may have terms in the identifiers (ID) field that have become thesaurus terms since the record was created.
- Click the [Index](#) tab at the top of the search box to find any term anywhere in the database. For example, starting an author search in the [Index](#) provides a list of potential names from which to choose. This also helps with journal titles and British spellings.

## DELETING, EDITING, COMBINING & SAVING SEARCHES

- To delete one or more search statements, check the boxes next to them on the [Search History](#) page, then click [Remove](#). The checked search statements disappear, and those remaining are renumbered.
- To edit a search statement, check the box next to it on the [Search History](#) page, then click [Edit](#). The search statement is placed in the search box so that changes may be made to it. When done, click [Search](#); the retrieved records are displayed.
- Search statements are combined via two methods.
  1. Check the boxes next to the search statements to be combined, then click the [and](#) or [or](#) button following 'Combine and search using'. All sets chosen will be combined using the same connector and the retrieved records will be displayed.
  2. Enter the search set numbers using connector terms and parentheses. For example “((#1 or #5) and #2) not #3” combines records in either sets 1 or 5, then looks for records that are also in set 2, before removing those in set 3.
- Click the [disk](#) icon on the [Search History](#) page to save all the search statements displayed (delete unwanted sets before saving). When requested, enter your personal ID and password, a title for the search strategy, and a date it will expire (this can be changed later). Click [Save History](#). The [open file folder](#) icon allows access to saved search strategies for use or modification.

## SEARCH RESULTS

- Upon running a search, the first ten retrieved records are displayed on a new page with the bibliographic citation, a link to the complete record and a UC-eLinks button, which provides information about access to the full text of the item. Scroll down the page and use the arrow buttons to view additional records in the set.

**Note:** The retrieved record display page for any search set opens from the [Search History](#) page as well.

- If only some of the records are of interest, check the box to the left of each. These records are remembered and additional records from other search sets can be added as well. To view these marked records, select [Marked Results](#) from the Show: drop down box.
- The display format, if not appropriate for your needs, can be modified. Click the [Change Display](#) button at the top of the display portion of the page, which opens the [Change Display](#) page. Change the number of records displayed on a page, which fields to display, what form of field labels to use, and whether to sort or not. The final section modifies how the Search History displays.
- Buttons for print, save and e-mail, displayed as a [printer](#), a [disk](#) and [letter](#) icons, appear in the top right corner of all record display windows. Clicking one of these opens its respective page. Make selections for which records, which fields and the form of field labels to use, then click the [Print](#), [Save](#) or [Mail](#) button.
- To import records to EndNote, ProCite or Reference Manager, use a format that includes the publication type (PT) field ('Citation' for example), turn off Word wrapping, select Field labels: Short labels, and save or mail.