Masterthesis available:

“Memory Retention and Cognition in Hibernators”

Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology

Department of Interdisciplinary Life Sciences

University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna

Project Outlines:

Hibernation can be seen as an extreme physiological state, which helps to survive unfavourable environmental conditions. However, it is indeed costly as it, for example, also increases oxidative stress and reduces the immunocompetence of the hibernating animal.

In our FWF project, we are working with edible dormice (*Glis glis*) as they are known to have, with up to 11 months, one of the longest hibernation periods described in mammals. Our main goal is to answer the question whether hibernation also has a negative impact on memory retention and cognition.

We are looking for a highly motivated Master Student to investigate spatial orientation and cognition in hand raised adult dormice. The student will be working with two established setups and in close cooperation with two PhD Students.

The applicant should be motivated and able to work independently. Regular presence at the institute is mandatory for this project. Additionally, as the dormice is a nocturnal animal, working hours will often extend into the evening. Experiments will start in April and will be finished in early September. Data evaluation will be done in autumn/winter.

The applicant should have a good background in biology and behavioural sciences. Previous experience in statistics using R is beneficial but not a prerequisite.

If you are interested to join our team, please send us your application containing a CV and a letter of motivation via e-Mail.

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