

## Internship, BSc, MSc or Diploma

**Study:** The effect of providing virtual friends on behaviour of domestic chickens

**Duration:** 1-2 weeks (internship), until summer 2023 (thesis)

**Task:** test room setup and disassembling, behaviour tests (1-2 weeks), video coding (1 week). For a degree also statistical analysis should be performed (depends on the experience).

**When:** as arranged

**What do you need:** University can provide all the equipment but having your own computer would be preferable. In case you have no own computer, you may use a university's computer.

### Description

Animals experience stress when separated from companions. A student is needed to perform a study to identify the effect of having virtual social companions or mirror reduces separation stress and improves welfare. Domestic chickens will be used as a model. The study can be performed either at the campus or on a commercial farm. We will assess chicken behaviour (stress vocalisations and latency to feed) in three conditions: (1) alone in the test arena, (2) with a video of hens feeding, (3) with a mirror. The student will also develop a novel way of tracking faecal samples to individual animals without additional observation and handling.



If you are interested or have questions, please contact [janja.sirovnik-koscica@vetmeduni.ac.at](mailto:janja.sirovnik-koscica@vetmeduni.ac.at)

Please share the information with your friends and colleagues.

With best wishes,  
Janja Sirovnik