

The University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna is active in teaching and research and provides services in connection with ensuring animal health in Austria. These tasks represent our contribution to maintaining the health of humans and their animal companions as well as to producing healthy food.

To strengthen our team, the **Institute of Animal Welfare Science** is looking for a

## Postdoctoral Researcher in Prosocial behaviour and Animal Welfare

<b>Grade:</b>	PostDoc/B1
<b>Level of employment:</b>	40 hours
<b>Length of employment:</b>	23 months
<b>Deadline for applications:</b>	09.03.2020

The Institute of Animal Welfare Science is part of Vetmeduni, ranked 5<sup>th</sup> worldwide (2019 Shanghai Ranking for Universities, Veterinary Sciences) and located in Vienna, consistently ranking as one of the most liveable cities in the world.

### Responsibilities

The position forms part of a new research program on prosocial behaviour in domestic animals, a novel research topic, with an emphasis on positive welfare states. The main objectives are to develop novel approaches to study prosocial behaviours with a focus on their welfare implications.

You should be motivated and independent, and bring a problem-solving mindset to developing new and unorthodox experimental approaches. You will join a group seeking solutions to difficult questions regarding assessment of subjective states in domestic animals, characterization of complex social dynamics (e.g. reciprocity, cooperation, altruism), ontogeny of social-cognitive-affective processes, and interplay between mind and biology. You will have resources at your disposal to develop innovative ideas, in collaboration and autonomously, and lead research to benefit animal welfare and science. You will be supported by a multi-disciplinary research group (behaviour, physiology, neuroscience) and national and international collaborations. The work will be conducted in English. The position has longer-term possibilities based on subsequent grant funding. The proposed starting date is June 2020 but a different starting date is negotiable.

Please submit a letter addressing the selection criteria below (necessary knowledge and qualifications, desired skills and abilities) in a few pages, a full CV, a list of two references and a letter of motivation describing your research interests, experience and goals.

### Necessary knowledge and qualifications

- Post graduate qualification with a PhD or doctorate thesis
- An understanding and past experience in animal behaviour research

### Desired skills and abilities

- Expertise in social behaviour, and ideally prosocial behaviour
- Experience in the development of innovative research approaches or tests
- An understanding of animal welfare science
- Ability to design and successfully manage research projects
- Experience in the supervision of research students

- Ability to work independently and in a team
- Ability to seek research funding, e.g. grants submitted, awards, etc.
- Publication track-record of high quality

#### Contact /Further Information

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[www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/animal-welfare-science/](http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/animal-welfare-science/)

#### Minimum salary

The minimum salary for university staff is regulated by the collective contract and at the level given above amounts to EUR 3.889,50 gross per month (14 times/year). The minimum salary may be increased when previous employment and other salary components are taken into account.

#### Applications

Please submit applications quoting the **reference number 2020/0202** via e-mail (preferably) to [bewerbungen@vetmeduni.ac.at](mailto:bewerbungen@vetmeduni.ac.at) or by post to the Personnel Department of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinärplatz 1, 1210 Vienna. Please do not forget to include the reference number or we shall be unable to relate your application to the correct vacancy announcement.

The Vetmeduni Vienna is attempting to increase the proportion of female staff, particularly in senior positions, and in accordance with § 41 of the 2002 Universities Act it is striving to attain a balanced representation of men and women, especially on its scientific staff. Applications from qualified women are thus particularly welcomed. If women are underrepresented (below 50%), female applicants who are as well qualified as the best qualified male applicants will be given preference, provided that there are no strong reasons for favouring a particular male candidate.

Applicants have no entitlement to reimbursement of any travel or accommodation costs they may incur as a result of the application procedure.

The Vetmeduni Vienna is proud to have been awarded the certificate "*hochschuleundfamilie*" (career and family). We should thus be especially pleased to receive applications from people with families. Applications from persons with disabilities are similarly welcome.