

**Title: The effects of environmental enrichment on affective well-being in pigs**

The Institute of Animal Welfare Science at the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna (Vetmeduni) is offering research opportunities for motivated students in the second half of 2019. The candidate should have some familiarity with ethology / animal behavior and **a strong interest in working with pigs at our research farm**. The candidate will be expected to communicate and write the report in English.

**Project description:** The need to improve animal welfare attracts ever-increasing public, political, professional, and media attention worldwide. The way an animal feels (i.e. *affect*) is central to its well-being, and affective well-being is increasingly understood to include more than just the absence of negative states but the presence of positive ones. Though this conceptual view now dominates animal welfare science, researchers are nevertheless struggling to find ways to assess positive affect in non-human animals. Thus, a major goal of our current research program is to develop a set of research tools to better understand affective well-being in farm pigs. To do so, we will provide pigs with a rich set of environmental enrichment conditions to stimulate positive affect. Conventionally housed pigs will be compared to 'Super-enriched' pigs that receive various forms of cognitive, behavioral, and social enrichment. We are looking for assistance from a motivated student who will help to establish and maintain these differential rearing conditions, as well as conducting behavioral observations and collecting physiological data. Work will take place at the Medau Vetmeduni research farm (approximately 45 min from Vienna) and the Swine Clinic (on Vetmeduni campus in Vienna). Transportation between the main campus and research farm is possible via public transport. Prior experience with pigs is preferred, but not required, and the motivated student will receive thorough on-site training. In addition, the student will be given opportunities to learn about the neural and molecular substrates of positive affect. Qualified candidates will demonstrate organizational skills, a desire to learn, and a strong willingness to work with pigs.

If you are interested, please send your CV and a letter of motivation in an email with the title: "Pig enrichment" to Kathi Kreml: [Katharina.Kreml@vetmeduni.ac.at](mailto:Katharina.Kreml@vetmeduni.ac.at)