



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Davis College

Animal & Food Sciences™

Equine Health and Welfare PhD – Open Position

Dr. Lindsay Nakonechny, in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at Texas Tech University, is currently seeking a PhD student, with expected start date of Fall 2027.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The PhD student will be expected to take a leadership role in their [Animal Science](#) research program within the One Welfare Equine Lab. The PhD student will lead research that aims to evaluate the influence of human-horse interactions (e.g., during clinical care, husbandry procedures, training) on horse health, welfare and human well-being. General responsibilities will include: organizing, coordinating, and conducting experiments; coordinating with horse owners, equine facilities, and industry professionals; supervising research assistants; behavioral and physiological data collection; data management and analysis; and manuscript writing.

The ideal candidate has strong interpersonal skills, formal training conducting applied animal behavior research, a strong research background with publication(s), and the ability to work well independently and as part of a team.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum of a Master's degree in animal science, animal health and/or welfare, applied ethology, animal biology, or a related field.
- Strong leadership and communication skills.
- Ability to supervise and mentor research assistants.
- Ability to organize and coordinate research project tasks.
- Knowledge and skills working with Microsoft suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint).
- Knowledge and skills working with statistical programs, such as STATA or R.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Interest and experience working with horses (e.g., equine handling).
- Interest and/or coursework experience in animal behavior and/or welfare science.
- Experience coding behavior (e.g., using Noldus Observer software) from video recordings.
- Experience with physiological data collection or analysis (e.g., heart rate monitors, cortisol, thermal imaging).

POSITION AVAILABLE:

The start date for this appointment is Fall 2027.

FUNDING:

Stipend support is available, with expectations that students will seek additional scholarship funding.

TO APPLY:

Applicants should submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae to Dr. Lindsay Nakonechny (lnakonec@ttu.edu). Applicants should also provide contact information for two references.