



The Centre for Proper Housing of Ruminants and Pigs offers a **Master's thesis** on:

## **“Are all goats the same? Differences in social behaviour in groups of dwarf and dairy goats”**



Different selection goals in goats (e.g. meat vs dairy) have likely affected other traits that are not directly related to the selected production traits. In order to provide adequate welfare to all breeds, it is important to know how this artificial selection has shaped other aspects, such as social behaviours and group dynamics.

The aim of this master project is to use video and live observations of group-housed goats to assess dominance hierarchies and group dynamics of two selection lines: dwarf goats selected for extensive use, and dairy goats selected for intensive use. To this end, the successful candidate will assess affiliative and antagonistic interactions between individual goats and will examine the obtained data using advanced statistical analysis.

### Qualifications:

- Biology or Agronomy student
- Interest in animal husbandry and animal welfare issues
- Interest in working with goats
- Good skills in English and/or German.

The work will take place at the Agroscope Research Institute in Tänikon. The master's thesis is limited to 6-12 months and can start from August 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

### Contact:

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