

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.

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

PhD student in Parrot Welfare

Grade:	B1
Level of employment:	30 hours
Length of employment:	3 years
Deadline for applications:	01.10.2021

The Institute of Animal Welfare Science is part of Vetmeduni, ranked 8th worldwide (2021 Shanghai Ranking for Universities, Veterinary Sciences) and located in Vienna, consistently ranking as one of the most liveable cities in the world.

Responsibilities

Parrots are a popular companion animal. Nevertheless, there is little scientific knowledge on the welfare of parrots kept as companion animals in terms of their housing and husbandry, owner knowledge of the needs of those animals, and the type of welfare challenges that those parrots face throughout their life. This PhD project aims to review the welfare challenges for parrots kept in captivity, and subsequently develop a welfare assessment tool for parrot caretakers.

The candidate should be motivated, independent and reliable. The candidate will be involved in conducting a systematic literature review, a survey to the parrot community (e.g. experts, vets, owners and caretakers), and possibly some experimental work in order to identify and assess a set of parrot welfare indicators. Support from colleagues will help the candidate to learn or develop some of the multi-disciplinary skills contained within the project. The candidate is not expected to have prior knowledge in parrot keeping or animal welfare assessment. Nevertheless, a strong knowledge in animal behaviour is a must.

The proposed starting date is November 1st 2021 but a different starting date is negotiable. The work will be conducted in English. Possible current restrictions due to covid should not inhibit you to apply. 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 reference names, and a letter of motivation describing your research interests, experience and career goals.

Necessary knowledge and qualifications

- Proof of completed studies such as MSc, veterinary medicine or another relevant course of study, prior to the start of employment (expected graduation at the latest by 15 December 2021)
- An understanding and past experience in animal behaviour research
- Fluent English (B2 level)

Desired skills and abilities

- Experience in the field of animal welfare science
- Expertise in data collection and analysis
- Ability to conduct research relatively independently
- Evidence of initiative and persistence
- Knowledge of parrots
- Publications would be a plus

Contact /Further Information

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<https://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 2 228.6 gross per month (14 times/year, equal to EUR 31 200.4 gross yearly). 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 2021/0913** via e-mail (preferably) to 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.