



Institution	Division of Animal Welfare, VPH Institute, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern
Funktion / Level	Doktorand / PhD Student
Projekt	<p>Reward sensitivity comprises reactions to reward directly, as well as reactions to reward predictive cues. In dogs, reward sensitivity has been little investigated; however, it can be predicted to be an important factor influencing trainability. In humans and rats, individual differences in this trait have been found to be associated with impulsive behaviour, propensity for frustration, and risk of addiction.</p> <p>Also some dogs show addictive-like behaviours towards ball toys or other fast moving toy objects, often associated with high arousal levels, impulsivity and a lack of interest in other environmental or social stimuli.</p> <p>The relationship between reward sensitivity, different cognitive factors and trainability will be investigated in a sample of pet and working dogs through several behavioural tests, concomitant physiological measures, and questionnaires to assess the external validity of tests and to explore environmental factors of influence.</p>
Anforderungen / Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc degree (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline • Experience with designing and conducting behavioural experiments • Skills in data analysis • Fluency in English and German (candidates need to recruit and interact with German-speaking dog owners in Switzerland) • Experience with handling and training dogs is highly desirable.
Wir bieten / we offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive academic environment • 4 year contract <p>Salary according to regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation</p>
Pensum / Stellenantritt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% • Stellenantritt per 1. Januar 2018
Bewerbungsfrist	<p>September 29th, 2017</p> <p>To apply for this position, please send a cover letter, C.V. (including publication list), BSc and MSc diplomas and transcripts of grades, and two reference letters in a single pdf document to stefanie.riemer@vetsuisse.unibe.ch. Please name the document as follows: LastName_FirstName.pdf.</p> <p>The deadline for application is Friday 29th September 2016.</p>
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