



Student Project Fund—Guidelines

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Through the generosity of the Sir James Dunn and Christofor Foundations, the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) at AVC provides internal funding to support undergraduate veterinary students with interest in animal welfare. Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) is available annually for projects that benefit animals (directly or indirectly), foster awareness about issues of animal welfare, and encourage leadership among students.

The Student Project Fund is administered separately from the annual Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre competition. Where larger projects are concerned, students may still apply in the regular annual competition as co-investigators with faculty members.

Funds from the Student Project Fund are available through three routes as below. See the separate application form for parts 2 and 3.

1. Sir James Dunn Student Animal Welfare Research Award

- i. A minimum of \$5,400¹ is available to support DVM student participation in research consistent with the goals of the SJDAWC².
- ii. Funded projects should benefit animals (directly or indirectly), foster awareness about issues of animal welfare, and encourage leadership among students. The project will require a faculty supervisor and will be expected to generate a poster or publication.
- iii. The call for proposals will be issued to students in December with a February deadline, followed by adjudication through GSR, with the project to take place the following summer.
- iv. Students must have completed (as of start of research award) at least 1 year of the DVM program, be available for 12 consecutive weeks of research work during the summer, be able to confirm a willing faculty supervisor at AVC, and agree to participate in the AVC Summer Research and Leadership Program.
- v. A student will only be able to receive this award once during their degree program.

1 Combination of funds from Student Project Fund and SJDAWC general project funding (proportions to be determined annually by SJDAWC Management Board). Total available in each year is subject to change but is equivalent to 12 weeks of veterinary student salary at UPEI determined rates.

2 To be nationally and internationally recognized as a centre of excellence that advances animal welfare through research, service, and education based on scientific evidence and the application of a veterinary perspective.

2. Travel

Funds are available to assist with travel-related costs for specified activities of importance to the mission of SJDAWC. The following have been deemed eligible for support:

- i. the Animal Welfare Judging Contest www.canr.msu.edu/animalwelfare/ (Contact the Chair in Animal Welfare for more information)
- ii. Third-year DVM students participating in VCA 490 External Clinical Experience - Shelter Medicine. The amount available varies annually and will be divided equally amongst all those who notify the SJDAWC Coordinator by ~April 15 (exact date will be announced each year) of their interest in the rotation, to a maximum of \$600 per student.
- iii. Other relevant animal-welfare themed scholarly travel. The amount awarded is dependent on funds available, and is limited to a total of \$600 during a student's time at AVC

Funds will be reimbursed upon return, following submission of original receipts.

3. Projects

- i. Funds may be available for proposals submitted by an individual or group of students at any time during the year. Normally, applications may be funded to a maximum of \$1,000 and will not include salary funds. Examples of potentially acceptable projects include: costs toward funding a workshop or helping to bring in a speaker, equipment/supplies to benefit animals through a student club, or costs of producing a newsletter on some animal welfare-related topic(s).
- ii. Students are encouraged to discuss ideas for proposals with the Coordinator of the SJDAWC or an appropriate faculty member. The application form must be co-signed by the faculty member who will act as mentor for the project and have final approval for administrative and expense approvals.
- iii. Applications must be submitted a minimum of 4 weeks before a proposed event. Proposals will be evaluated as they arise.
- iv. Students who receive funding are required to provide a brief final report, co-signed by the faculty mentor.

Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated as follows:

- i) How will a project directly or ultimately benefit dogs, cats, farmed animals, horses or wildlife?
- ii) Are proposals well-designed with specific, achievable goals, including appropriate information dissemination?

The proposals will be evaluated in 3 main areas: relevance to equine, canine, feline, or farmed or wild animal welfare, the merit of the proposal itself, and the strengths of the applicant(s). A copy of the proposal evaluation form is appended. Only those criteria applicable to a particular project will be evaluated.

Mission Statement

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) exists to promote animal welfare by generating and disseminating impartial and scientifically based knowledge and understanding of animal welfare issues.

The Centre facilitates, focuses and coordinates academic and research resources at the Atlantic Veterinary College to carry out animal welfare research and education, and to provide information and advice to industry, government, organizations and the public.

Goals

1. The SJDAWC seeks funding for, undertakes, promotes and supports animal welfare research projects and service activities at the Atlantic Veterinary College.
2. The SJDAWC serves as a resource centre to compile and generate information relevant to the welfare of animals.
3. The SJDAWC strives to raise the awareness of the public and of the veterinary profession on broad questions of animal welfare and animal use, and to provide accurate, scientifically based information on these questions.

Final Report (not to exceed 2 pages)

1. Once the project has been completed, the student is expected to provide a final report.
2. For students participating in the Animal Welfare Judging Contest or a shelter rotation, fulfilment of the relevant requirements will constitute the final report.
3. For travel to a conference, the final report may be in the form of a written report for the SJDAWC newsletter or a presentation at AVC.
4. For projects, the final report must state the original objectives and how those objectives have been achieved, emphasizing the following areas:
 - direct and indirect benefits to animals during the project and once it is completed; and
 - information dissemination through the project.The report should conclude with a summary stating the significance of the project and the anticipated impact on animal welfare.
With the final report, the faculty mentor will be expected to provide a brief comment on the achievement of the objectives.

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