



Guidelines – 2020 Grant
Deadline: Thursday, November 7, at 5:00 pm

Through the generosity of the Christofor Foundation, the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) provides internal funding to support research or service projects with direct and tangible benefits for animals.

The use of animals in research and education is a privilege carrying with it unique professional, scientific and moral obligations, and ethical responsibilities. The SJDAWC encourages the submission of research projects that aim to benefit the welfare of animals of any species. Projects must meet Canadian Council on Animal Care guidelines, and will not necessarily be restricted to non-invasive categories. The SJDAWC subscribes to the three R's. i.e., refinement of techniques to reduce pain and distress whenever live animals must be used; reduction in the number of live animals that must be used; and replacement of experimental animals with observational research or non-animal methods whenever possible.

Criteria for submission of projects

Projects that meet the following criteria will be considered for funding:

1. Funded projects will address significant issues pertaining to the welfare of animals. The results will have a high likelihood of directly or indirectly supporting the improved welfare of animals. The outcome should benefit a substantial number of animals.
2. The principal investigator must be a full or part-time UPEI employee with his/her primary academic appointment within AVC. The applicant must be a faculty member, research scientist, or research associate.
3. Research proposals must be scientifically and statistically sound and likely to result in, or contribute to, at least one peer-reviewed publication.

Projects in which study design is seriously flawed or for which animal welfare relevance is not demonstrated will not be funded.

Those interested in submitting project proposals are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the Chair of the Management Board (G Keefe), SJDAWC Director (K Proudfoot), or their departmental representative i.e. Biomedical Sciences – S Hartwig; Companion Animals – O Raab; Health Management – J Burns; Pathology and Microbiology – A Muckle.

GUIDELINES: 2020 COMPETITION

Applicants must use the SJDAWC grant application form. **Please submit your completed application electronically to Rosemary McIver at mciver@upei.ca by the deadline of Thursday, November 7, along with one hard copy of the application with appropriate signatures on the last page to the GSR office, 2351A.**

Proposals should be in 12 pt. font, single-spaced, no more than 6 lines per inch. Proposals lacking any of the required information or that fail to meet the stated page limits, line spacing, or font size may not be eligible for funding.

1. Evaluation of project

The application will be evaluated in 3 areas: relevance to animal welfare, the merit of the proposal itself, and the strengths of the investigator(s). Applied research projects must be scientifically sound and well-designed. **Each research proposal will be reviewed for statistical design.** Service projects must be well-designed with specific, achievable goals. A copy of the proposal evaluation form is attached (pages 6-8). Only those criteria applicable to a particular project will be evaluated.

2. Project eligibility

- i) The Selection Committee will consider projects which provide treatment or care of additional animals over and above the College's educational commitments. However, the SJDAWC will not subsidize the Atlantic Veterinary College's own educational commitments, such as projects which form an essential component (teaching, laboratory material, animals, equipment, staff, etc.) of a graduate or undergraduate course, where such activity is deemed by the Committee to be the responsibility of the AVC or UPEI in performing its normal commitments and responsibilities.
- ii) Research applications will be evaluated according to ethical considerations and Canadian Council on Animal Care Guidelines (Categories A to D). They will be prioritized according to the potential animal welfare benefits in relation to the potential or likely cost to the animals used. The proposal should indicate the nature and likelihood of any adverse effects on the animals (as per Checklist, see item # 9).
- iii) Projects must be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

3. External review

The Selection Committee reserves the right to request external review for research projects.

4. Project design (see also Checklist, item # 9)

- i) For research projects, the proposal must include methodology, time line with annual milestones (i.e. identifiable targets), and plans for data analysis.
- ii) For service projects, the proposal must include goals/expected outcomes, how these will be achieved, and a timeline with annual milestones. For an application for renewed funding, state how the previous project met its objectives, including the number of animals affected.

- iii. For pilot projects, the proposal must include design of pilot study and outline of projected full proposal.

5. Significance of project

- i) Relevance to animal welfare—all projects: The impact that your project will have on animal welfare must be clearly explained in the Summary and Description of the proposal, and indicated in the project title.
- ii) The project outcome(s) must be clearly stated. Please indicate how the project objectives, if achieved, will result in or lead to reduced animal suffering or otherwise improve the quality of life of animals. The proposal should include provision for one or more of the following:
 - a) Publication of increased knowledge or understanding of a welfare issue in a refereed scientific journal
 - b) Training/education (veterinary/graduate students; CE for veterinarians, owners, producers, general public)
 - c) Publication of recommendations for management/veterinary practices
 - d) Direct intervention with a population of animals
 - e) Novel method to improve animal welfare with a high likelihood of success
- iii) For research projects: Include the potential benefits to animals, and the number of animals affected, if the results of this project are applied. Assessment of the severity of an animal welfare issue is based on:
 - a) the cause and nature of the harm caused
 - b) the duration of the harm
 - c) the numbers of animals affected and
 - d) the capacity of the animals to suffer.
- iv) For service projects: Include the number of animals expected to benefit from the project, and plans for information dissemination.
- v) For service projects applying for renewed funding: Please clearly state how the previous project met its objectives, including the number of animals affected over the course of the project. Please also include other impacts of the project, including education and information dissemination. Please note that this information is expected in the final report for the previous project, which will be considered in assessing whether the project has met its goals.

6 Budget

- i) For service projects, investigators may apply for funding of up to \$25,000 annually for 1 or 2 years for total project costs. A service project does not include a graduate student stipend.
- ii) For research projects that do not include the support of a PhD student or a Resident in a degree programme, investigators may apply for funding of up to \$25,000 annually for 1 or 2 years. For research projects that do include such support, investigators may apply for funding of up to \$25,000 annually for up to 3 years.
- iii) For research projects involving a graduate student in a degree programme, additional

funding of up to \$19,500 per year will be considered as a graduate student stipend (in addition to the up to \$25,000 annual project funding). At the discretion of the PI, a portion of the operating grant may be used to pay tuition fees of a graduate student.

- iii) Securement of external matching funding will be valued highly in the assessment of the proposal's budget.
- iv) Investigators may apply for pilot funding, to a maximum of \$5,000, to enable investigators to pursue pilot studies to support submission of a full proposal the following year. Where the Selection Committee feels there is some aspect of a full research project that needs development before a full proposal can be funded, the Committee may offer the investigator the option of 1 year of pilot funding instead of full project funding.
- v) Funding for **personnel** will be considered if this is central to completion of the project. Personnel may include technical support. Funding for personnel other than for graduate student stipends must be included in the operating costs. Under normal circumstances, faculty investigators will not be compensated.
- vi) **Equipment** purchases will be considered, if use of the equipment is an integral part of the project and the equipment is not presently available.
- vii) **Travel** up to \$1,500 total will be considered for presentation of results at scientific meetings. Other travel costs necessary for the completion of the project will be considered separately.
- viii) Funding will not be provided for administrative costs.
- ix) The Selection Committee will not consider appeals of funding or budgetary decisions.

7 Reporting

- i) Successful applicants are expected to provide concise annual progress reports and a final report at the end of the project. Release of the subsequent year's funds will be contingent on receipt of a satisfactory progress report from the previous year.
- ii) Investigators are also asked to inform the SJDAWC coordinator of any subsequent publications or presentations relating to the project.

8 Unexpended funds

- i) At the conclusion of a project, unexpended funds must be returned to the SJDAWC.

9 Checklists for both service and research project proposals:

- The impact that your project will have on animal welfare is clearly explained in the Summary and Description of the project, and indicated in the project title.
 - All signatures, as appropriate, are included (final page of Application Form).
 - All budget calculations are correct, and justification is provided.
 - Proposal conforms to SJDAWC Guideline 2 with respect to animal use.
 - Formatting requirements are met.
- i) For research project proposals, the Selection Committee also looks for the following:
- The significance of project is clearly stated (p. 1, part ‘e’ of the Application form, and guideline 5 of this form), and describes the potential benefits to animals if the results of this project are applied, and the potential breadth of application to populations of animals.
 - The nature and likelihood of any adverse effects on the animals in the study are indicated in the proposal. Assessment of the impact on animal welfare is based on the cause and nature of the harm caused, the duration of the harm, the numbers of animals affected, and the capacity of the animals to suffer.
 - Objective(s) are clearly stated with the study question(s) stated as hypotheses to be tested. If there are multiple objectives, clearly identify the primary objective.
 - Methods of randomization and blinding (as appropriate) are clearly specified.
 - There are appropriate controls.
 - Outcome variable is clearly stated. Where multiple outcomes are to be assessed, a primary one is specified and justified.
 - Method of measurement of outcome(s) is specified.
 - Statistical and biological justification of sample size is included.
 - Statistical analysis is specified. A statement that statisticians will be consulted is not sufficient.
 - The budget is appropriate to the work proposed.
 - The ability to achieve stated objectives the within proposed time frame is discussed (availability of appropriate facilities, equipment, personnel, case load).
 - References are cited in the text as well as in the reference list.

SJDAWC 2020 Grant

Proposal Evaluation Form [for selection committee use]

I Potential to enhance the welfare of animals

Funded projects will address significant issues pertaining to the welfare of animals. The outcome should benefit a substantial number of animals.

RELEVANCE TO ANIMAL WELFARE	High	Medium	Low	N/A
1. What is the likelihood that the project objective(s), if achieved, would result in or lead to reduced animal suffering or otherwise improve the quality of life of animals?				
2. What is the severity of the animal welfare issue to be addressed, in terms of the:				
the type and degree of suffering				
the duration of the harm				
the numbers of animals affected				
the capacity of the animals to suffer				
3. How well does the proposal describe the means or mechanisms for reducing animal suffering or otherwise improving quality of life of animals?				
4. Does the project contain any assessment of animal welfare?				
5. Does the project proposal contain any of the following means for improving animal welfare?				
Publication of increased knowledge or understanding of a welfare issue in a refereed scientific journal				
Training/education (veterinary or graduate students; CE for veterinarians, owners/producers, general public)				
Publication of recommendations for management/veterinary practices				
Direct intervention with a population of animals				
Demonstrated effectiveness and impact of project				
Novel method that is likely to work				
6. Does the proposed work minimise the likely suffering or harm caused to the animals due to any aspect of the project's design or conduct?				
OVERALL EVALUATION				

III Investigator(s):

INVESTIGATORS	Strong	Moderate	Weak	N/A
Knowledge of, and experience in, proposed area				
Productivity, publications, grants				
If previously funded by SJDAWC, were acceptable outcomes achieved?				
OVERALL EVALUATION				

A proposal must be rated as satisfactory in each section to be considered for funding. Only those criteria applicable to a particular project will be evaluated. Service and applied research projects will be given equal consideration.