



Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
ATLANTIC VETERINARY COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

www.upei.ca/awc

Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Grant Program 2021 GUIDELINES

Notice of Intent Deadline (all project types - this is optional to submit): October 15, 2020, 5pm

Application Deadline (all project types): November 12, 2020, 5pm

Applicants must use the NOI and grant application forms available on our website (<http://awc.upei.ca/>). Notice of Intents can be emailed directly to Katy Proudfoot, Director of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (kproudfoot@upei.ca).

Full applications can be sent to Sherri Pineau, Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre Administrative Assistant. Submit two electronic copies to animalwelfare@upei.ca:

- 1) One copy in the Word application form;
- 2) One copy with signatures (electronic signatures or printed, scanned and emailed).

You will receive a confirmation email within two business days after submitting the application.

If you do not receive a confirmation email, please follow up by email.

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Through the generosity of the Christofor Foundation, the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) provides funding to support animal welfare research, service and integrated projects. Animal welfare is a complex subject with scientific and ethical dimensions. For the purpose of this program, animal welfare refers to the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies. The guiding principles for the welfare of animals are contained within the 'Five Freedoms' (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 2019).

II. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Funded projects will address significant issues pertaining to the welfare of animals.
2. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a full or part-time UPEI employee with their primary academic appointment within AVC. The PI must be a faculty member, research scientist, or research associate.
3. Projects must be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (Categories A to D), or ethical guidelines of the Tri-Council Policy Statement "Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans", where applicable.

III. PROJECT TYPES

1. Research Projects

Research projects can include animal welfare outcomes related to both the natural and social sciences. Investigators are strongly encouraged to include graduate students in their projects. Projects must include clear outcomes related to animal welfare.

- a. Budgets must not exceed **\$100,000 total** for projects of up to 3 years (non-renewable)
- b. Examples of research projects include, but are not limited to:
 - Novel methods for assessing or relieving pain and distress in animals
 - Using behavioural, physiological and/or psychological studies to improve animal experiences, housing and management
 - Development of innovative alternatives to replace, reduce or refine the use of animals in research or teaching
 - Social science research used to improve animal welfare by increasing understanding of stakeholder perspectives
 - Epidemiological studies used to identify risk factors for animal welfare outcomes
 - Studies to increase the understanding of the implications of disease on mental experiences in animals

2. Service Projects

Service projects are those that provide service to the community to help resolve an animal welfare-related problem. Service projects must include community engagement. These projects do not normally include graduate student stipends, however, investigators are strongly encouraged to include veterinary student training in their projects.

- a. Budgets must not exceed **\$25,000 total** for projects of up to 1 year (renewable)
- b. Service projects may include, but are not limited to:
 - Activities that directly relieve pain, suffering and/or distress in vulnerable populations of animals
 - Engagement with community partners to create innovative learning experiences for students focused on animal welfare

3. Integrated Projects

Integrated projects include a combination of outcomes from research and service projects. These projects will be multi-disciplinary in nature, and will require teams with diverse expertise. The research component will be assessed using the same criteria as that used for research projects.

- a. Budgets must not exceed **\$100,000 total** for projects of up to 3 years (renewable)
- b. Integrated projects may include, but are not limited to:
 - Activities that directly relieve pain, suffering and/or distress in vulnerable populations of animals and measure relevant animal welfare outcomes from those activities
 - Engagement with community partners to create innovative learning experiences for students and measure student learning outcomes from those experiences

IV. APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. Notice of Intent

Investigators are encouraged to submit an optional Notice of Intent (NOI) before applying for a SJDAWC grant using the form available on our website (<http://awc.upei.ca/>). The NOI must include the project type and a brief summary of the proposed project. The NOI will be used to provide feedback to the investigator prior to the submission of the full application.

2. Application Information

a. Applicants must use the SJDAWC grant application form available on our website (<http://awc.upei.ca/>).

b. **Format:** Applications should be in 11 point Arial font, single-spaced and no more than 6 lines per inch. Applications 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.

c. **Project Summary:** Project Summaries should be no more than 250 words and use language suitable for a layperson. The summary should focus on the overall project goal(s) and supporting objective(s), plans to accomplish the project goal(s), and relevance of the project to animal welfare.

d. **Proposal:** Proposals should be no more than 5 pages and succinctly describe your proposed project, including the following elements:

- **Present state of knowledge:** Include a brief background about your topic, including the relevance to animal welfare and the specific gaps that your project would fill.
- **Project goal(s) and supporting objectives:** Include a detailed description of your project objectives, including hypotheses where relevant. A goal is the outcome you intend to achieve. Objectives are the implementation steps to achieve the goal(s). They should be specific, measurable, and have a defined completion date.
- **Significance to animal welfare:** The impact of the project on animal welfare must be made clear in the proposal.
- **Project design and methodology used to assess animal welfare:** Include a description of the project's activities, outcomes, and specific methodology to assess animal welfare. Methodology may include assessments of animal-based outcomes, direct intervention with a vulnerable population of animals, assessments of stakeholder perspectives of welfare, measurements of models to replace animals, or other approaches relevant to animal welfare.
- **Project timeline:** Include a timeline with annual milestones.
- **Mitigating animal suffering or harm:** Where applicable, include any measures taken to reduce any potential animal suffering or harm caused by the study methodology.
- **Plans for training and information dissemination:** Include provision for one or more of the following: 1) publication of increased knowledge or understanding of animal welfare in a refereed scientific journal (at least one peer-reviewed publication is required for all Research and Integrated projects), 2) publication or other material used for training or education (including veterinary or graduate students, CE for veterinarians, animal owners, producers, or the general public).

- Expertise and roles of investigators: Explain how each person on the team will contribute to the project and what expertise they will provide. Include at least one paragraph for the Principal Investigator and each Co-Investigator.
 - Plans for community engagement (Service and Integrated grants only): Include plans for community engagement related to your project. Community engagement describes the collaboration between AVC and the larger community (local, regional, national or global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources. This exchange should be two-way; what is the community gaining and what are the students and/or investigators gaining with this project?
 - Previous outcomes from renewed projects (Service and Integrated Projects only): Investigators applying for renewed funding must also state how the previous project met its objectives, including the number of animals affected. Investigators must also include education and information dissemination. One additional page can be used if needed (for a total of 6 pages).
- e. **Budget**: Projects can include funding for all necessary costs, including student funding. Please consider the following when creating your budget:
- Graduate student funding: Funding to support graduate student stipends and tuition can be included in proposals. Investigators are encouraged to use stipends currently recommended by AVC's Graduate Studies and Research.
 - Equipment: Equipment purchases will be considered if use of the equipment is an integral part of the project and the equipment is not presently available.
 - Personnel: Funding for personnel (other than graduate students) will be considered if it is central to the project, including technical support. Under normal circumstances, faculty investigators will not be compensated.
 - Administrative costs: Funding will not be provided for administrative costs.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Review process

- a. Project Summaries will be reviewed externally by a researcher(s) with expertise in animal welfare.
- b. Research and Integrated projects will be subjected to statistical review.

2. Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated in three core areas: 1) relevance to animal welfare, 2) the merit of the proposal, and 3) the expertise of the team. Investigators are strongly encouraged to review the Evaluation Rubric provided on our website (<http://awc.upei.ca/>).

VI. AWARD INFORMATION

a. Reporting

Successful applicants are expected to provide concise annual progress reports, a list of publications arising from the funding and a final report at the end of the project.

b. Unexpended funds

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

VII. CHECKLIST

Completed

(✓)

- Eligibility criteria are met (section II)
- Formatting requirements for Application Form are met (section IV.2.b)
- The project summary is succinct and includes clear relevance to animal welfare
- Project goal(s) and objective(s) are clearly stated, including hypotheses where relevant
- Statistical methods are described (Research and Integrated project types)
- Methodology are relevant to animal welfare
- A timeline is included with annual milestones
- Plans for dissemination are stated, including at least one peer-reviewed manuscript for Research and Integrated projects, and one publication (or other) for Service projects
- For renewed projects, a description of the previous project's objectives and animal numbers is included (Service and Integrated projects)
- References are cited in the text as well as in the reference list
- All budget calculations are correct and justification is provided for each item
- All signatures are included
- Sent two electronic copies of the application to animalwelfare@upei.ca. You will receive a confirmation email within two business days after submitting the application. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please follow up by email.