



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 2022 GUIDELINES

Notice of Intent Deadline (all project types - optional): September 24, 2021, 5pm

Application Deadline (all project types): November 4, 2021, 5pm

Applicants must use forms available on our website (<http://awc.upei.ca/>).

Notice of Intent (NOI) 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 has scientific and ethical dimensions. For the purpose of this program, a range of methods can be used but projects must be directed towards improving the quality of life experienced by animals as reflected in their mental state.

II. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Projects must be clearly relevant to animal welfare.
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 strongly 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 (research, service, or integrated) and a summary of the proposed project. The NOI will be used to provide feedback to the investigator prior to the submission of the full application. NOIs should be no more than approximately 750 words (or 1 single-spaced page in length) and use language suitable for academics from a range of disciplines. The NOI should include: 1) the overall project goal(s) and supporting objectives, 2) plans to accomplish the project goal(s) (including methodology that will be used to assess animal welfare), and 3) the relevance of the project to animal welfare.

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) (including methodology that will be used to assess animal welfare), and relevance of the project to animal welfare.
- d. **Signatures:**
 - Department Chair: All applicants must get approval from the Chair of their departments before submitting the application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to schedule a meeting with their Chairs to review the application before submission.
 - Assistant Dean of Clinical & Professional Programming: Applicants planning to use any hospital resource for their proposed project must get approval from the Assistant Dean of Clinical & Professional Programming or designate. Applicants using hospital resources must meet and discuss their applications with the Assistant Dean well in advance of the grant deadline.
- e. **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. Any help required with statistics/epidemiology, please reach out to Dr. Henrik Stryhn (hstryhn@upei.ca).

- 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 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).
- f. **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 amounts 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.
 - Indirect costs: Funding will not be provided for indirect costs any institution.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Review process

- a. Project proposals may be reviewed externally by a researcher(s) with relevant expertise.
- b. Research and Integrated projects will be reviewed for statistical methodology.

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.

c. **Extensions**

It is possible to extend the project up to one year after the end date of the grant and to extend funds for publication costs up to two years after the end date of the grant. Requests for extensions must be submitted with explanation by email to the SJDAWC Director by March 15th of the given year the grant expires. Extension requests will be subject to SJDAWC approval.

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 is 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
- Signatures from the PI and Chair of the PI's department are included
- Signature from the Assistant Dean of Clinical & Professional Programming or designate is included if using any hospital resources
- 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.