Master’s thesis
General intelligence in goats

The Institute of Behavioural Physiology at the Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Dummerstorf, Germany, is looking for a motivated Master’s student to participate in a study on general intelligence in goats.

Individual differences in human cognitive abilities show consistently positive correlations across different domains, providing the basis for the trait of "general intelligence" (g). Little is currently known about the presence of g in farm animals, in part because most comparative studies have focused on primates and rodents.

The aim of the Master's project is to investigate general intelligence in goats, using their performance on a variety of related and unrelated test paradigms. We will also investigate the extent to which factors such as breed influence this assessment. The work will focus on a conceptual literature review and data analysis using R software, as data collection has already been completed. This thesis can be carried out remotely.

Qualifications:
• Biology or Agronomy student
• Interest in animal husbandry and animal welfare research
• Good written and spoken English
• Basic knowledge in R

The starting date is flexible, but would ideally be in winter 2023/2024.

If you are interested, please send your CV and a one-page letter of motivation as soon as possible to: Dr. Christian Nawroth (nawroth@fbn-dummerstorf.de). The position may be filled at any time.