

# Masters thesis

## Altruistic behaviour in goats



The Institute of Behavioral Physiology at the Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Dummerstorf, Germany, is looking for a motivated Master student to participate in a study on prosocial behaviour in goats.

Prosocial behaviour refers to intentional actions that have a benefit for other individuals. A subtype of prosocial behaviour is altruism, which refers to behaviours in which the benefit to others comes at a cost to oneself. To date, there is limited evidence of altruistic behaviour in animals, particularly farm animals. We have developed a food-associated test paradigm that allows us to study altruistic behaviour in dwarf goats.

The aim of the master project is to investigate altruistic behaviour in goats in group and pair experiments using the above mentioned test paradigm. In addition, we want to analyse to what extent factors such as kinship and social relationships have an influence on altruistic behaviour. In the course of the work, practical handling and management of goats, methods of direct observation and video analysis of behavioural data as well as data analysis with the software R will be learned.

Qualifications:

- Biology or Agronomy student
- Interest in animal husbandry and animal welfare research
- Good skills in English and/or German.

The starting date is flexible, but ideally would be in August/September 2022.

If you are interested, please send your CV and a one-page letter of motivation as soon as possible to: Dr. Jan Langbein ([langbein@fbn-dummerstorf.de](mailto:langbein@fbn-dummerstorf.de)). The position can be filled at any time.

