



European Society of Veterinary Clinical Ethology

Application Form

Rudy DeMeester Grant

for research in veterinary clinical ethology

The aims of the Rudy DeMeester (RDM) grant include improving and widening knowledge and understanding of practical clinical ethology for the benefit of companion animals, including horses.

Name of applicant:	
Name of supervisor, (if applicable) or other colleagues who may be working on this project:	
Project Title:	

President
Vice President
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Through this grant, ESVCE aims to encourage the development of interest in clinical ethology and to provide an opportunity to conduct relevant research or other projects related to the field (e.g. educational). We welcome applications from clinicians and researchers of all levels of experience; this includes students (who are studying veterinary medicine or another animal behaviour related degree) and veterinarians and other professionals working in the field of clinical ethology. *N.B. All applicants must be current members of the ESVCE in good standing.*

ESVCE wishes to promote high quality research that is likely to lead to substantial improvements in clinical ethology through providing new insights and/or promoting applied research aimed at developing practical solutions for dealing with behavioural problems. In parallel ESVCE is concerned with the welfare of companion animals and is an advocate of welfare-focussed handling and training.

For successful applicants, it is mandatory that they keep in touch regularly with the ESVCE Board every 6 months following provision of funding, and that on completion of the funded work, a report is sent to the committee to be included in the next ESVCE Annual General Meeting. In addition, it is strongly encouraged that successful applicants submit their work for consideration to be included in annual European Veterinary Congress of Behavioural Medicine and Animal Welfare (<https://www.evcbmaw.org/>), a congress jointly organised by ESVCE, ECAWBM, AWSELVA and a different national group representing members interested in behavioural medicine and welfare.

Applications

Applications must be made on the attached form. One copy of the of the application form with an electronic signature, together with a copy of the student's CV (no more than 2 sides of A4) should be sent electronically to board@esvce.org

The grant consists of EUR 2000. Payments are made after acceptance of application to the bank account stated in the application

In addition, in the event of a grant recipient submitting and successfully being accepted to present findings from their work at the annual European Veterinary Congress of Behavioural Medicine and Animal Welfare (<https://www.evcbmaw.org/>). The fee for attending congress, travel costs and up to 2 nights accommodation to allow presentation at the conference (to a maximum total value of EUR 1000) will be reimbursed on submission of receipts to the ESVCE Board.

Closing Date

Please note that all completed application forms must reach ESVCE by **28th February of the respective year**

Each grant application will be reviewed anonymously by two or more reviewers selected by the ESVCE board.

Further information

If further information is required please contact the board directly (board@esvce.org).



Notes and Conditions

Use of funds

1. Projects and procedures funded by ESVCE grants may not be altered from those specified on the application form and in the grant authorisation from ESVCE without prior written permission of ESVCE.
2. Where funds are granted to an institution for the employment of staff at that institution or for work to be carried out by a private individual, ESVCE is not the employer. It is the responsibility of the host institution to issue a contract of employment in accordance with the respective legislation in the country and with any other employment legislation. Full details of all employment costs should be provided in the application, when necessary.
3. The period of the grant is strictly limited and the tenure of appointment of any persons employed by the host institution for the work must be confined strictly to the period of the grant. If staff are retained beyond this it is for the host institution's own purposes and at their own expense.
4. All grants are made on the condition that ESVCE is in no way responsible for claims under any statute or at common law and it does not indemnify the host institution against any claim for compensation or against any other claims for which the host institution may be liable as an employer, owner-occupier or user of premises or as the provider of services or facilities or in relation to the work carried out under the grant.
5. Any equipment purchased from an ESVCE grant will become the property of ESVCE and should be used only for the activities approved. At the end of the project the ownership and future use of the equipment will be reviewed by ESVCE.

Legal and ethical

6. It is the responsibility of the applicant to be aware of all laws and codes under which the work is to be carried out and to abide by these and to obtain all necessary permissions and licences.

Use of animals

7. If the proposed work involves the use of animals, it is the responsibility of the principal applicant to check with the appropriate national or regional authority regarding the need for licences or other specific authorisation required in the country concerned and to obtain these where necessary. It is also the responsibility of the principal applicant to obtain the necessary approvals from the institution's ethics committee where there is one.
8. ESVCE requires rigorous implementation of the 3Rs. Where animals are used in research they must be afforded high standards of welfare compatible with the aims of the research. At all times conditions for husbandry and experimentation should be of high standard conducive to good welfare and to minimising stress. Enclosures should meet the physiological and behavioural needs of the animals and appropriate enrichment should be provided. The health of the animals should be maintained and monitored, and any deterioration attended to immediately. All staff involved in animal research, both at a scientific and research support level, and those involved in the breeding, handling and care of animals, must be appropriately trained and possess relevant qualifications.
9. In order that ESVCE can be satisfied fully that projects involving the use of animals take the fullest possible account of their welfare, applications should include details of the following (as appropriate) in the description of the methods:



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animals - species, strain, weight, sex, age, source, transport, health status, conservation status, fate at end of project;

housing/feeding/measures to improve welfare - cage/enclosure type, size, floor, furnishings, bedding, cleaning, thermal environment, number of animals per cage, diet, feeding regime;

experimental design - experimental design, details of how numbers in test and control groups have been determined (e.g. by power analysis prior to the experiment), statistical methods to be used in analysis of the results;

experimental procedures - experimental procedures, any risks to animal welfare (nature and duration), measures to improve the animals' welfare, analgesia, methods of euthanasia.

Applicants may find useful, and are recommended to familiarise themselves with, the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour's Guidelines for the treatment of animals in behavioural research and teaching: <https://www.asab.org/ethics>

Limitation of liability

10. ESVCE is in no way responsible, financially or otherwise, for the expenditure or liabilities arising out of the work other than those specifically listed and defined in the project proposal or approved in further correspondence.

Publication of reports and copyright

11. In the first instance, reports should be considered confidential to ESVCE. Subsequently, by prior mutual agreement, the authors or ESVCE may publish the report or offer it in part or entirety for publication. However, ESVCE reserves the right to publish the brief account of the project and any accompanying illustrations in its publications, either as submitted or after editing at ESVCE's discretion, and without prior discussion with the Scholar or his/her supervisor.

Where the Scholar or his/her supervisor, having obtained ESVCE's permission to do so, publish the work or aspects of it, ESVCE's support should (unless otherwise specified by ESVCE) be duly acknowledged. A draft copy of any proposed article should be submitted to ESVCE for permission prior to submission for publication. Reprints of articles arising from work supported or partially supported by ESVCE should be sent to ESVCE in due course.

Termination of grants

12. ESVCE has the right to revoke or suspend any grant upon failure to observe any of the conditions listed above or specified by ESVCE in the offer of a grant or on consideration of the progress of the work. In such a case, ESVCE may require repayment or, depending on the circumstances, may reimburse the host institution for expenses incurred to the date of termination but will not be responsible for, nor will indemnify the host institution against, any claims (relating to employment or anything else - see conditions above) arising as a result of the termination.

Reports

13. Applicants are required to submit a written report of their projects. These should be presented in the following format:
 - an abstract of 100 – 200 words
 - the aim
 - full details of the background including a critical review of related literature
 - a clear explanation of the method
 - results with appropriate tables, diagrams, figures and statistical analyses
 - discussion including subsection on animal welfare implications



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- summary of conclusions and recommendations
- references (quoted in full)

Reports should, as far as possible, be prepared in the format of papers published in the Journal of Veterinary Behavior (and applicants are encouraged to consult the instructions for authors for this journal). Reports need be no longer than necessary to clearly and concisely describe the project. There is no merit in producing unnecessarily lengthy reports. Please submit your final report to ESVCE's secretary. Applicants are also required to provide photographs or videos illustrating their project or the animals involved in it for inclusion in ESVCE publications.

Brief account of project

14. In addition to the main report, each applicant is required to submit a brief (200-300 word) account of their project which is written in an easily accessible style suitable for inclusion in the ESVCE report for the AGM. This should explain the background of the project and its benefits.

Supervisor's assessment

15. Project supervisors are asked to submit a brief assessment of the success or otherwise of the project when submitting the applicant's report to ESVCE.

Deadline

16. The project report and the brief account of the project (see above) must be submitted, to ESVCE by **1st November** in the year the project is undertaken.

Please note that failure to comply with these conditions and to submit reports on schedule may result in the disqualification of the applicant or of his/her organisation from obtaining grants from ESVCE in future.

Oral Presentations

17. ESVCE regularly holds meetings at which applicants are expected to present their work, once finished, to an audience.



Section 1: Summary

1.1 Applicant details

Name	
Address	
Email	
Telephone	
Present occupation	
Education	
Name of supervisor, (if applicable) or other colleagues who may be working on this project:	

1.2 Proposed object

Project title	
Duration of project (include proposed start and end dates)	
Intended location for carrying out project	

1.3 Applicant signature

I have read the conditions under which ESVCE grants are given and, if this application is successful, I agree to abide by them.

Date:

Signature:



Section 2: Project Details

2.1 Please describe your project below, with 2 pages for the maximum. It is important to outline how you plan to improve clinical ethology through the use of science. As a guide, please consider the following points:

- (i) background of your project and why you believe this area to be important (brief references or technical notes may be attached to your application where applicable);

- (ii) what you hope to achieve by carrying out your project, including your aims and objectives;

- (iii) how you intend to carry out your project, for example: your proposed method, details of any animals to be studied (if animals are to be involved); the way in which you plan to evaluate your results;

- (iv) the likely output of your project.



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3. Comments by corresponding supervisor and/or head of department (if applicable)

Name and title	
Position / Job description	
Contact address	
Email:	Telephone:
Is the project to be carried out under a Home Office Licence or under national legislation relating to procedures that may cause pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm?	Yes No
Is the project part of the formal requirements of the candidate's present course of study?	Yes No

Please provide the names and addresses of all bodies which are supporting, or being approached to support, the project, including details of amounts given or applied for respectively.

Please give a brief assessment of both the applicant's capabilities and the proposed project:

Supervisor signature

I confirm:

- (i) I have read and support this application and I am willing and available to supervise the work,
- (ii) adequate resources are available for the project to be carried out, and
- (iii) I have read and agree to the terms set out in the enclosed *Notes and Conditions*.

Date:

Signature: