

# Master's thesis

## Prosocial behaviour in goats



We are looking for candidates for a Master's thesis on "Prosocial behaviour in goats" in the "Animal Behaviour and Welfare" working group at the Research Institute of Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Dummerstorf, Germany.

Prosocial behaviour refers to actions that have a benefit for other individuals. So far, there is little evidence for prosocial behaviour in animals, especially farm animals. We have developed a foraging-associated test paradigm that allows us to investigate prosocial behaviour in dwarf goats.

The aim of the Master's project is to investigate prosocial behaviour in goats in group- and pair-settings using the above-mentioned test paradigm. We also want to analyse the extent to which factors such as kinship, social relationships and external factors influence the expression of prosocial behaviour. As part of the project, the candidate will learn the practical handling of goats, methods of direct observation and video analysis of behavioural data as well as the statistical analysis of experimental data with R.

Qualifications:

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

The start of the project is flexible, but ideally in summer - autumn 2024.

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)).

