

## Description

The Department of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Namur and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Ghent University (Laboratory for Ethology) are advertising a PhD-position for a project on the ontogeny of temperament in dogs with regard to early identification of individuals prone to develop behavioural problems. This research, which lasts four years, is funded by the Belgian Federal Public Service of Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment and should commence by October 2010.

Following aims are addressed during the study:

- 1) to critically evaluate scientific literature describing temperament tests in dogs
- 2) to develop and validate new tests to measure reactivity in young dogs throughout their development
- 3) to develop and validate straightforward methods to measure the corresponding physiological response through hormone level determination and molecular biological techniques.

The successful candidate will predominantly work from the University of Namur, but part of the research will also be conducted at Ghent University. Being able to speak, read, and write in French and Dutch is a necessary requirement for this position. Furthermore, knowledge of English is desired for writing publications and presenting results at scientific conferences.

## Qualifications / Profile

- Must hold a Master's degree with an animal welfare affinity. Experience in behavioural research is advantageous
- Be very motivated to perform scientific research and obtain a doctoral degree (jointly supervised FUNDP and UGent).
- Enthusiastic, independent, problem-solving, organized and result-oriented attitude
- Flexible and willing to work evenings and weekends, depending on the needs of the study
- Good communicative skills in Dutch and French, with sufficient knowledge of English. Able to interact respectfully with dog owners and professionals.
- Because a lot of travel is required within the country to conduct the study, having your own transportation is a necessity (preferably a car). Mileage will be refunded at a fixed rate.

## How to apply?

Please send application materials **prior to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2010** to:

Dr. Claire Diederich  
Facultés Universitaires Notre Dame de la Paix  
Rue Muzet, 6  
5000 Namur  
Belgium

Additional information regarding this position can be obtained from:

Dr. Claire Diederich - [claire.diederich@fundp.ac.be](mailto:claire.diederich@fundp.ac.be)  
Dr. Christel Moons - [christel.moons@ugent.be](mailto:christel.moons@ugent.be)