

PhD position announcement
Fetal and neonatal programming in dog:
Influence of gestation and first days of life on canine neonatal health
Toulouse Vet School (France), NeoCare – INRA (UMR 1225)

The PhD thesis will be performed at Toulouse National Veterinary School (ENVT) in NeoCare Center. NeoCare Center (Director: Prof. Sylvie Chastant-Maillard), houses research and teaching activities, as well as clinical work. Our research performed focuses on relevant fundamental and applied questions in the field of canine and feline neonatology, with special emphasis on the survival of neonates up to weaning (puppies and kittens infectiology and immunity; nutritional solutions to improve survival, colostrum and milk quality, both nutritional and immunological, early growth of puppies and kittens - relationship between birth weight, early growth and adult weight and health, fetal and neonatal programming).

Subject of the thesis:

Low-birth-weight is a major risk factor for neonatal mortality in puppies, with specificities in neonatal development. The aim of this work will be to identify factors influencing prevalence of low birth weight in puppies and to determine consequences of low birth weight and early growth (2 first days of life) on health at adult life.

Candidates profile:

- a graduate scientific degree in life sciences (e.g. veterinarian or agronomist, etc – vet degree is not mandatory). Knowledge in biostatistics will be appreciated;
- motivation to work with dog and cat breeders;
- autonomy, analytical thinking;
- excellent clarity in both written and verbal expression in English (skills in French language are not mandatory);
- ability to work simultaneously on multiple and diverse projects while respecting deadlines.
- rigorous work standards, sense of organization, strong team spirit and intellectual curiosity are main personal assets expected.

Contact:

Interested candidates should contact Pr. Sylvie Chastant-Maillard (s.chastant@envt.fr) with their CV, the contact information (email, phone) of at least 2 reference people having supervised the candidate and a brief statement of their research interests and career goals.

Application deadline: 15 September 2016

Salary: 37 000 € annual gross –

Duration: 3 years (position opened the 1st November 2016 – adaptable date)

Skill area: Biology, Veterinary Medicine, Health, Neonatology, Biostatistics, Nutrition, Epidemiology

Recent papers published by NeoCare

H. Mila, A. Grellet, A. Feugier, S. Chastant-Maillard. Differential impact of birth weight and early growth on neonatal mortality in puppies. *Journal of Animal Science* 2015; 93(9): 4436-4442.

H. Mila, A. Feugier, A. Grellet, J. Anne, M. Gonnier, M. Martin, L. Rossig, S. Chastant-Maillard. Immunoglobulin G concentration in canine colostrum: evaluation and variability. *Journal of Reproductive Immunology* 2015; 112: 24-28.

H. Mila, A. Feugier, A. Grellet, J. Anne, M. Gonnier, M. Martin, L. Rossig, S. Chastant-Maillard. Inadequate passive immune transfer in puppies: definition, risk factors and prevention in a large multi-breed kennel. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* 2014; 116: 209-213.

H. Mila, S. Chastant-Maillard. Canine colostrum. *Veterinary Focus* 2016; 26: 32-38.

A. Grellet, H. Mila, R.M. Heilmann, A. Feugier, N. Gruetzner, J.S. Suchodolski, J.M. Steiner, S. Chastant-Maillard. Effect of age, gestation and lactation on faecal IgA and calprotectin concentrations in dogs. *Journal of Nutritional Science* 2014; 3(e41): 1-5.