

Bachelor's Thesis topics for the BDSP ANIMAL PROTECTION AND WELFARE for the academic year 2024/25

Dept.	Bachelor's Thesis Topic and Annotation	*	Bachelor's Thesis Supervisor
2150	<p>Occurrence of <i>Babesia</i> spp. in ticks at the zoo</p> <p>Parasites of the genus <i>Babesia</i>, transmitted by ticks, are found all over the world and affect high number of mammals, including humans, domestic and farm animals, in which they can cause a disease called babesiosis. The aim of the study is the detection of <i>Babesia</i> spp. in ticks in selected zoos. Under the supervision of a supervisor/doctoral student, the student will collect the ticks by flagging on the grounds in selected zoos in the Czech Republic (Brno, Ostrava, Jihlava). After identification of ticks, <i>Babesia</i> spp. will be detected by the molecular methods (DNA isolation, PCR, gel electrophoresis) and then the number of ticks and their positivity will be statistically evaluated with the respect to the pre-selected locations in each zoo, individual years and months of tick collection, tick developmental stages and genders, with the aim of evaluating the dynamics of ticks and the risk of infection for zoo animals and zoo visitors. This study is part of a long-term project that started in 2023 and is fully supported by the management of individual zoos for the following years as well.</p>	E	Assoc. Prof. MVDr. Eva Bártová, PhD
2190	<p>Morbidity and mortality of handicapped small mammalian species in wildlife rescue centres</p> <p>Wildlife rescue centres treat thousands of diseased and injured free-ranging mammals belonging to a variety of species. It is imperative to analyse morbidity and mortality of animals submitted for treatment and veterinary care because it may help understand both the different threats for wild animals and circulation of pathogenic agents within our cultural landscape.</p>	Ev	Prof. MVDr. Jiří Pikula, PhD, Dipl. ECZM
2410	<p>Evaluation of lesions on the tails in relation to the assessment of the welfare level in pig farms</p> <p>The aim of the bachelor thesis will be state the causes of tail damage in pigs, state the possibilities of preventing tail damage in pigs, the main goal will be the evaluation of data from the State Veterinary Administration of the Czech Republic for the period 2019 – 2023 indicating damage to the tails of pigs slaughtered at slaughterhouses.</p>	Ev	Prof. MVDr. Zdeňka Svobodová, DrSc.
2410	<p>Severity of procedures experienced by animals used for scientific purposes in EU</p> <p>According to EU legislation, Member States shall ensure refinement of breeding, accommodation and care, and of methods used in procedures, eliminating or reducing to the minimum any possible pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm to the animals. Based on the analysis of data on the use of animals for scientific purposes in the European Union available from EU STATISTICS DATABASE ON THE USE OF ANIMALS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES UNDER DIRECTIVE 2010/63/EU, the number of animals having experienced mild, moderate, severe or non-recovery procedures will be assessed within each species and also trends will be determined over the monitored period. Furthermore, number of animals reused per species, purposes of the study and genetic status of the animals will be evaluated.</p>	Ev	Prof. Ing. Eva Voslářová, PhD
2410	<p>Trends in the popularity of dog breeds with extreme characteristics</p> <p>Intensive selection aimed at highlighting specific breed characteristics has led to extreme changes in appearance in many breeds with a negative impact on the health and welfare of the dogs. However, an effort to restore a more natural appearance often conflicts with the preferences of owners and breeders. For example, brachycephalic dog breeds remain very popular despite health problems and a clear connection between the desired appearance and the impairment of the respiratory system. The popularity of a certain breed is reflected in the number of dogs registered in the stud book and also in the number of dogs entering dog shows. Based on the changes in numbers over a period of time, trends in the preferences of individual breeds can be observed. The aim of the study will be to assess trends in the frequency of selected dog breeds over a period of several years and to evaluate the breed popularity in relation to breed appearance, namely the popularity of breeds with extreme and potentially health-damaging breed characteristics will be evaluated on the basis of analysis of the national stud book, or catalogues of selected dog world, European or national dog shows.</p>	Ev	Prof. Ing. Eva Voslářová, PhD

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2420	<p>The effect of incorporating peppermint into the diet on the growth performance of broiler cockerels experimentally infected with coccidia</p> <p>Coccidiosis, main gastrointestinal diseases in chicken, have important economic losses in the poultry industry and requirement of treatments based on the use of antibiotics and anticoccidials. The use of phytonutrients in poultry nutrition is linked to the search for natural compounds that can be effectively used to prevent and treat poultry diseases. In the study, the effect of 2% dietary peppermint on the live weight and average daily gain of rapidly growing Ross 308 broiler cockerels reared under fully controlled environmental conditions will be investigated. Prior to the evaluation period (from day 21 to 42 of age), all monitored groups of broilers will be experimentally infested with attenuated coccidia oocysts to induce experimental infection. Subsequently, their live weight and growth intensity will be determined. Control groups will consist of cockerels fed standard complete feed mixtures (BR2 and BR3), including BR2 with the addition of anticoccidial in the mixture (referred to as positive control), and another group fed without the addition of anticoccidial or other phytogenic additives (referred to as negative control). Statistical methods will then be employed to test whether the incorporation of peppermint in the diet significantly influences the growth indicators of reared broilers.</p>	E	MVDr. Lenka Rozsypalová, PhD

* *Bachelor's Thesis type: E...experimental, Ev... evaluative*

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