2022 Call for research projects
Breeding for better welfare (year 2)

The Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) is the BVA’s charity and is run by veterinary and animal welfare professionals. Our aim is to give animals a better life using expert veterinary and scientific knowledge. Funding scientific research to find practical solutions to animal welfare issues has been at the heart of AWF’s work since our inception and we are committed to ensuring that animal welfare remains high on the agenda.

In 2021 AWF launched its three-year theme ‘Breeding for Better Welfare’, a wide-spanning theme encompassing serious welfare issues across all animal species with which vets are involved. As well as guiding AWF to fund meaningful research, the theme also contributes to AWF’s activities of discussion and debate.

This year’s call is for project proposals that cover the topic ‘meeting demand without compromising animal welfare’.

We are interested in research proposals which identify the welfare implications associated with breeding for demand, as well as breeding practices that are successful at maintaining good welfare whilst meeting demand in any animal species.

We will also consider exceptional projects on welfare issues that do not fall within the breeding theme, providing they meet the robust scientific criteria.

Projects should be of up to 18 months’ duration and can include desktop research and scoping projects. We are keen to see projects which aim to collect baseline data on a welfare issue, and which could be used as a starting point for discussion and action by key decision makers.

Project proposals should take into account relevant welfare consequences highlighted by the AWF Delphi project on priority welfare issues in the UK and should provide information that could have a practical impact of relevance to the veterinary professions. For subjects of particular interest to the veterinary profession, please refer to BVA’s list of animal welfare priorities.

Projects that are able to deliver impact and have a strong knowledge exchange plan outlined will score highly, as generating discussion and debate around key animal welfare topics is at the core of AWF’s work. We can give you a platform and will expect you to share your research with the veterinary professions and the wider animal welfare community.
Projects should be designed in accordance with good research practice to minimise sources of bias and must address animal welfare. Please refer to our ‘What is Animal Welfare’ guidance: [https://www.animalwelfarefoundation.org.uk/research/what-is-animal-welfare/](https://www.animalwelfarefoundation.org.uk/research/what-is-animal-welfare/)

**Logistics:**

**Project duration:** Projects should be of up to 18 months’ duration. Projects are required to start within 6 months of the proposed start date.

**Grant amount:** AWF will invest a total of £150,000 into its grant giving this year. We are therefore encouraging submissions for small to medium sized projects in response to this call.

**Eligibility:** The principal investigator should have a minimum of two years research experience and be based in the UK. Grants can be used to support Masters students; we will cover the pro-rata costs of a Masters student for the period they are working on the project (i.e. not the taught part of a taught post graduate masters course).

**Knowledge exchange:** The research should be appropriate for publishing in a peer-reviewed journal with open access. The successful applicant will also be expected to present their work at meetings organised by AWF and other interested organisations, as well as contribute to any relevant promotional material published by AWF.

**Application process:**

This will be a two-step application process. Researchers are invited to submit a project overview and those of interest will be invited to submit a full application in the autumn.

- **Deadline for overview submissions:** 9am, Thursday 29th September 2022
- **Applicants notified to submit full application:** 18th October 2022
- **Deadline for full application submission:** 9am, Thursday 24th November 2022
- **Funding awarded:** 21st December 2022

To apply, please visit: [https://www.animalwelfarefoundation.org.uk/research-call-2022/](https://www.animalwelfarefoundation.org.uk/research-call-2022/)