



Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
ATLANTIC VETERINARY COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

www.upei.ca/awc

2025 Guidelines:

2025 Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre Veterinary Student Research Award (SJDAWC VetSRA)

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) at AVC provides internal funding to support undergraduate veterinary students with interest in animal welfare. A total of \$8,850.00 is available to support one AVC DVM student's participation in research related to animal welfare. Funded projects should benefit animals (directly or indirectly), foster awareness about issues of animal welfare, and encourage leadership among students. The project will require a faculty supervisor and will be expected to generate a poster or publication. The student approaches the faculty mentor to confirm if they are interested in taking the student to mentor through the SJDAWC VetSRA. If multiple of students approach the faculty member, the faculty member has the final decision on who they choose. When the decision has been agreed upon then the student and faculty mentor complete the SJDAWC VetSRA application.

Eligibility: Students must have completed (as of start of the research award) at least 1 year of the AVC DVM program, be available for 12 or more (depending on supervisor) consecutive weeks of research involvement during the summer of 2025, be able to confirm a willing faculty supervisor at AVC and agree to participate in the AVC Summer Research and Leadership Program (includes submitting an abstract and presenting a scientific poster).

Awards are equivalent to approximately \$737.50 per week. The SJDAWC will provide the full student stipend.

The adjudication will consider the applicant's academic performance, their letter of interest outlining their research interests and goals, and their summary describing the benefits of the project to animal welfare. Only applications with acceptable faculty participation will be considered. Any student requiring assistance in identifying potential research supervisors should consult with Dr. Sunny Hartwig, AVC Coordinator of Undergraduate Veterinary Research (shartwig@upei.ca) or the SJDAWC Director, Dr. Katy Proudfoot (kproudfoot@upei.ca) as early in the planning process as possible.

Faculty are encouraged to identify external sources for research support (i.e., student stipend top-up and research operating funds). The faculty are also encouraged to extend the student longer than 12 weeks using other sources of their funds.

Students and their faculty supervisors can opt to have their applications included in AVC VetSRA program if unsuccessful in the SJDAWC VetSRA competition. **Only one application is required for students to be included in both competitions.**

2025 Application process:

1. Based on your area of interest, approach suitable supervisors and seek information on potential research projects for which you will take an active role in planning and completion to a logical and reasonable endpoint (e.g., that will be suitable for a poster presentation at the end of the program). A student may apply only once to VetSRA 2025. Past SJDAWC VetSRA recipients are eligible to apply again for the award. However, preference will be given to an applicant who has not yet received the award.
2. Visit the AVC SRLP website, download and complete the SJDAWC Application Form Part I (student).
3. Prepare a letter of interest (max 1 page) in which you describe:
 - a. How your research interests relate to your proposed project.
 - b. Brief project background that demonstrates your understanding of the research question.
 - c. Project objective(s).
 - d. How this experience will further your veterinary career and professional goals.
4. Prepare a summary (max 250 words) including a description of how the project will benefit animal welfare, directly or indirectly. Animal welfare has both scientific and ethical dimensions. For this program, a range of methods can be used. However, the goal of the summer research project should be directed towards improving the quality of life experienced by animals as reflected by their mental states. If you need assistance summarizing the importance of your project to animal welfare, consult with your supervisor and/or email the SJDAWC Director, Dr. Katy Proudfoot (kproudfoot@upei.ca).
5. Prepare an updated curriculum vitae (CV).
6. Submit the CV along with the completed application form (Part I, student) and your letter of interest, and your summary about the animal welfare impact of the project to Sherri Pineau, scpineau@upei.ca, by Monday, January 27, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.
7. Have your supervisor complete the application form (Part II, supervisor) and submit to Sherri Pineau, scpineau@upei.ca, by Monday, January 27, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. If you choose to be included in the AVC VetSRA program, check the box in the SJDAWC application form (Part II, supervisor).
8. Adjudication will consider student academic performance, the letter of interest, and the summary about animal welfare.