



FORMAS

Ett forskningsråd för hållbar utveckling
A Research Council for Sustainable Development



Information webinar May 5th, 2026

Idea development: Future research for animal protection and wellbeing



Welcome

- Purpose and focus of the call
- What to think of before you apply
 - Who can apply?
 - Call-specific requirements
 - Budget and duration
 - Evaluation criteria and grading rubric
 - Review process and ranking
 - Important dates
- Time for questions





Questions?

- Write your questions in the Q&A in English or Swedish.
- You can write questions in the Q&A whenever they come up.
- We will answer questions during or after the presentation.





Purpose and focus of the call

- To strengthen research on animal protection and animal welfare with **new and broadened perspectives and lines of inquiry**.
- Funding for **idea-developing projects** that, through **interdisciplinary collaborations**, challenge or develop the state of knowledge and the state of the art in research on animal protection and animal welfare.





Thematic focus for the call

- Projects that focus on **specific animals or groups of animals**, as well as projects that explore animal protection and welfare at a **holistic level**.
- Projects that **put the animal and animal welfare at the centre**, that analyse **conflicts of goals and interests**, that apply a **systems perspective**, and/or that explore **norms, values** and different ways of understanding and practicing animal protection and welfare.
- Projects must be **interdisciplinary**, i.e. that they must build on the meeting of different disciplines and knowledge traditions particularly combinations of disciplines, knowledge traditions and perspectives that otherwise rarely meet in animal protection and welfare research.



Animal protection and welfare

- Animal protection concerns issues related to human actions and responsibilities; what humans do, do not do, or should do for the animals in their care.
- Animal welfare concerns the individual animal's wellbeing, experience and how it can manage and influence its situation.





Examples of animals in human care

- Animals kept for the production of food or materials, such as cattle, reindeer, sheep, pigs, poultry, fish in aquaculture, and animals kept for fur, wool, down or other animal products.
- Companion animals, such as dogs, cats, small animals, birds, reptiles and aquarium animals.
- Animals used in sports, hunting, competition or leisure activities, such as horses, hunting dogs and animals in various competition and exhibition activities.
- Animals used for entertainment or display, such as animals in circuses, zoos, aquariums, shows, film and television production.
- Animals used in research, teaching and experiments, including laboratory animals and animals in educational environments.
- Working, service and utility animals, such as police dogs, rescue dogs, military animals, draft animals, and animals used in agriculture or for transport.
- Therapy animals and assistance animals, such as guide dogs or animals used in care and rehabilitation contexts.
- Animals kept in hobby or cultural contexts, including falconry, historical reenactments, exhibition activities and private collections of exotic animals, including trade in such animals.
- Animals that are actively managed by humans, for example through wildlife management.



Who can apply?

- Researchers at Swedish higher education institutions and other organisations with research as their main activity.
- Project team: one project leader and 1-4 participating researchers who hold a PhD by the time the call closes.
- Other project participants: PhD students, post-docs, research or laboratory assistants or technical staff.





Requirements for the project leader

The project leader must:

- Be employed by the administrating organisation throughout the project.
- Have an activity level of at least 20%
- Be PL for max. one application – but may be participating research in others.
- No upper age limit but full-time retired researchers are not eligible for salary support.





Grant size and project duration

- 2-3 million SEK
- 2 years (24 months)





Review and ranking

- Grades (1-7) for each criteria
- Priority score (1-3)
- For ranking: Standardised grades and priority scores
- Portfolio perspective can be applied to allow for a diversity of perspectives among applications of same quality.





Assessment criteria and grading rubric

Novelty and boldness


- To what extent does the project idea challenge or go beyond established research on animal protection and animal welfare?

Relevance and potential

- How relevant is the project in relation to the call's specific thematic focus?
- What potential does the project have to contribute new and broader perspectives and lines of inquiry, in the short and long term?

Workplan and competence

- To what extent is the project's design appropriate for idea development?
- To what extent are the project team's collective expertise and activity levels appropriate for the project's purpose and objectives?

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1 (2)

Grading rubric for the call Idea development: Future research for animal protection and wellbeing

About the grading rubric and how to use it

The grading rubric is developed to support reviewers in applying the grading criteria consistently. The grading rubric is also intended to provide guidance to those preparing their application, through articulating expectations in relation to different grades. The rubric is only available in English.

The grading rubric describes what is required to meet a certain grade for each of the grading criteria and guiding question. The rubric describes four grades. However, reviewers can use the entire seven-point scale in their assessments, through selecting also grades that fall between the four described grades when relevant. For, example, the grade Excellent (6) is defined as being between Very good (5) and Outstanding (7).

If an application is graded differently across the guiding questions within a criterion, we recommend using the average grade as the overall criterion grade, so it balances the strengths and weaknesses under that criterion.

Novelty and boldness	Insufficient (1)	Acceptable (3)	Very good (5)	Outstanding (7)
<i>To what extent does the project idea challenge or go beyond established research on animal protection and animal welfare?</i>	The project idea builds on established research and shows little or no ambition to challenge or reframe prevailing understandings of animal protection and animal welfare.	The project idea builds on established research with some new elements and with limited potential to challenge or reframe prevailing understandings of animal protection and animal welfare.	The project idea goes beyond established research and has clear potential to challenge or reframe prevailing understandings of animal protection and animal welfare.	The project idea goes markedly beyond established research and has strongly potential to fundamentally challenge or reframe prevailing understandings of animal protection and animal welfare.



Important dates

- Deadline for applications: June 10th, 2026 at 14.00 (sharp!)
- Decision date: September 22nd, 2026 at 16.00
- Project start: November 1st, 2026 (preset)





Some advice

- Read all parts of the call text thoroughly.
- Make sure you pass all requirements.
- Prepare your academic profile in due time.
- Use AI responsibly and describe how you have used it.
- Register your application at least 2 days before the call closes.
- Check the pdf for formatting errors.





Time for questions!





Thank you!

For questions about the call

- **Eléonore Fauré**
- **Annika Smedman**
- **Josefin Wangel**

For questions about Prisma

- **Maria Rogell**

