

# Master's thesis

## Goats that stare at visual illusions



The Institute of Behavioral Physiology at the Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Dummerstorf, Germany, is looking for a motivated Master student to participate in a study on the perception of visual illusions by goats.

Visual illusions have been extensively studied in humans and non-human primates, as they shed light on the perception, and subsequent processing, of visual information. Knowledge on the visual processing in ungulate species is sparse. This is of particular relevance as we keep many domestic ungulate species under human care – matching their perceptual abilities with their husbandry environment is key to safeguard animal welfare.

The aim of the master project is to investigate the perception of visual illusions by goats in a looking time paradigm. The successful candidate will gain expertise in the practical handling and management of goats, methods of direct observation and video analysis of behavioural data, and data analysis with the software R over the course of the project.

Qualifications:

- Student of biology or agricultural science
- Interest in animal husbandry and animal welfare research
- Good skills in English and/or German.

The starting date is flexible, but ideally would be in early spring 2023.

If you are interested, please send your CV and a one-page letter of motivation as soon as possible to: Dr. Christian Nawroth ([nawroth@fbn-dummerstorf.de](mailto:nawroth@fbn-dummerstorf.de)).

