

# Evaluation of the level of contact between domestic and wildlife populations



**A PhD scholarship is available to study research farmers' biosecurity decision-making processes in regards to contacts of domestic animals with wildlife in Europe.**

Wildlife populations play important roles in sustaining infection events and provide a persistent risk of infection for domestic population. African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious transboundary animal disease that is caused by viruses and spread across multiple countries. ASF is listed as notifiable terrestrial animal diseases by the OIE and is regarded as a major challenge for livestock industry and economic growth globally due to their associated production losses and trade restrictions to disease free markets. Quantifying interactions between wildlife and domestic populations is therefore an important aspect of understanding disease spread and how mitigation strategies may be affected at the wildlife-livestock interface.

During this PhD project, the successful candidate will carry out a series of surveys to quantify pathways of disease transmission occurring between wildlife and domestic populations, and clarify how behaviours and attitudes of farmers toward wildlife may vary across livestock industries, regions and wildlife species. The person recruited will join the newly created Veterinary Public Health (VPH) Team of the Biometry and Evolutionary Biology Laboratory which is supported by the CNRS, Claude Bernard Lyon 1 University (UCBL), VetAgro Sup and Boehringer Ingelheim. This PhD project will further build on existing partnerships between VetAgro Sup – UCBL and the University of Glasgow and will support activities of the French “Pôle Expertise Vétérinaire et Agronomique Animaux Sauvages” (EVAAS; [evaas.vetagro-sup.fr](http://evaas.vetagro-sup.fr)) as well as Scotland’s Centre of Expertise on Animal Disease Outbreak (EPIC; [www.epicscotland.org](http://www.epicscotland.org)). This project has the potential to directly influence policy in both France and the UK, and inform decisions of industry stakeholders in the design of their surveillance and control programmes against infectious diseases.

<b>Funding body</b>	VetAgro Sup and Claude Bernard Lyon 1 University
<b>Duration and start date</b>	3 years from the starting date Expected start date: April/May 2021
<b>Job environment</b>	The successful candidate will be recruited by the Biometry and Evolutionary Biology Laboratory (LBBE; <a href="https://lbbe.univ-lyon1.fr/">https://lbbe.univ-lyon1.fr/</a> ) under the supervision of CNRS, UCBL and VetAgro Sup. Built around three pillars consisting of biometry (understood as the set of informatic, statistical and mathematical formalisation tools of biological problems), evolutionary biology and health, this laboratory offers an ideal environment for the development of interdisciplinary projects at the



	<p>methodology/biology interface in eco-infectiology. The laboratory is also co-holder of the Labex Ecofect.</p> <p>The candidate will work in the newly created Veterinary Public Health Team within the Department of Evolutionary Ecology, one of the unit's four departments. As such, he/she will be able to rely on the expertise in wildlife ecology, epidemiology, risk assessment and questionnaire design available in the unit as those available at partners institutions in France and Great Britain.</p>
<b>Application criteria</b>	<p>Masters in Veterinary Sciences/Biology/Statistics/Epidemiology/Social sciences or related degree</p> <p>Knowledge on questionnaire design and analysis would be appreciated but not mandatory.</p> <p>Good quantitative abilities would be appreciated but not mandatory</p> <p>Ability to write and speak English to a high standard. A <a href="#">B2 level</a><sup>1</sup> of English is required.</p> <p>Must be comfortable and motivated to work in a predominantly French-speaking environment.</p>
<b>Application date</b>	15 March 2021
<b>How to apply</b>	<p>Please submit current CV, academic qualification certificates and cover letter addressing the requirements above, by email to:</p> <p><a href="mailto:thibaud.porphyre@vetagro-sup.fr">thibaud.porphyre@vetagro-sup.fr</a></p> <p>or to</p> <p><a href="mailto:emmanuelle.gilotfromont@vetagro-sup.fr">emmanuelle.gilotfromont@vetagro-sup.fr</a></p>
<b>Contacts for more information</b>	<p>Dr. Thibaud Porphyre (VPH Team lead) <a href="mailto:thibaud.porphyre@vetagro-sup.fr">thibaud.porphyre@vetagro-sup.fr</a></p> <p><b>LBBE - Pole EVAAS</b> Prof. Emmanuelle Gilot-Fromont (VetAgro Sup) <a href="mailto:emmanuelle.gilotfromont@vetagro-sup.fr">emmanuelle.gilotfromont@vetagro-sup.fr</a></p> <p><b>EPIC :</b> Dr. Harriet Auty (University of Glasgow) <a href="mailto:Harriet.Auty@glasgow.ac.uk">Harriet.Auty@glasgow.ac.uk</a></p>

<sup>1</sup> Common European Framework of Reference [<https://europa.eu/europass/en/common-european-framework-reference>]