

Postdoc position in Animal Behaviour



on:
**Vocal communication and
cognition in
meerkats (*Suricata suricatta*)**

at the University of Zurich, Switzerland

A three year postdoctoral position (potentially to be extended to six years) in animal behaviour is available at the University of Zurich working with Prof. Marta Manser. The research involves behavioural and vocal studies in relation to physiological aspects on meerkats, with fieldwork performed at the Kalahari Meerkat Project in South Africa (www.kalahari-meerkats.com). Within this framework, several aspects of research can be pursued including: playback experiments documenting knowledge about other group members; hormone analyses investigating the physiological correlates of status, condition, age and vocal signals; the flexibility and individuality in the production and the perception of vocal signals; experiments identifying ecological knowledge. The tasks will consist of collecting observational and experimental data in the natural habitat of the meerkat. The postdoc will be responsible for: (1) conducting the field research; (2) analyses of behavioural and acoustic data; and (3) involvement in supervision of our assistants, MSc and PhD students in the field and back in Zurich.

We welcome highly motivated applicants with PhDs in Biology/Zoology. Applicants must have a strong background in collecting and analysing behavioural data. Applicants with experience in vocal research (i.e., acoustic analysis and playback experiments) are preferred. The working language in the group is English, German skills are not essential. The position is available from August, 2008. Target application date is June 10th, 2008, but open until suitable candidate has been found.

Applicants should send a cover letter with a brief statement of their research interests, a curriculum vitae (including a list of publications), and the names and affiliations of three references. Applications and informal inquiries should be sent (preferably as a single pdf) to:

marta.manser@zool.uzh.ch

(<http://www.zool.unizh.ch/Research/AnimalBehaviour/Manser.html>)