



ÖTT awards its Animal Welfare Research Award for the second time

The platform "Austrian Veterinarians for Animal Welfare" (ÖTT) awarded the ÖTT Animal Welfare Research Award for the further development of knowledge-based animal welfare for the second time as part of this year's 14th ÖTT Conference.

The two scientists Dr. Christina Arhant and Dr. Lydia Pratsch were awarded prize money of 3,000 euros for their studies on "Cats safe and relaxed on the way to the veterinary practice - from science to practice".

The two veterinarians, who specialise in behavioural medicine, dedicated their work to measures to reduce transport stress and the veterinary handling of cats. They were able to show that cats that received transport training using positive reinforcement were less stressed during the car journey and that the subsequent examination in the veterinary practice could be carried out more quickly. In order to implement a fear- and stress-free visit to the vet, adjustments to the infrastructure (such as increased storage spaces for cat baskets in the waiting area), de-escalating body language and the least possible restraint of the animals were shown.

Based on scientific evidence, recommendations for pet owners as well as veterinarians could be developed so that cats feel comfortable on the road and in the veterinary practice and receive the best possible medical care. In addition to publications in specialist journals, a free brochure and 4 videos, which are freely accessible on the Vetmeduni Vienna website (<https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/tierschutzwissenschaften/infoservice/heimtiere/katze/katzenrausport>), have also been developed.

Background to the ÖTT Animal Welfare Research Award:

The platform "Austrian Veterinarians for Animal Welfare" (ÖTT) is an association of veterinary organisations for the purpose of promoting knowledge-based animal welfare. The aim is to advance the development of practical, ethical and legal animal welfare based on scientific findings. For this purpose, the ÖTT - Animal Welfare Research Award was initiated.

This prize is intended to honour an outstanding completed scientific work that demonstrably makes a substantial contribution to the further development of knowledge-based animal welfare. An application-oriented orientation of the work towards the veterinary field of work is particularly welcomed.