

# Research Project for PhD Student

## Project Title:

Investigation of hookworm infection in the Australian sea lion, *Neophoca cinerea*

## Project Supervisor:

Dr Rachael Gray

r.gray@usyd.edu.au

## One Sentence Project Summary: (single sentence for Google-style search results)

This project will investigate the prevalence of hookworm infection in Australian sea lion populations and determine the role of hookworm in disease and subsequent mortality in Australian sea lion pups.

## Project Synopsis: (about 250 words max)

Little is known about the health and disease status of the Australian sea lion, *Neophoca cinerea*, and the contribution of disease to mortality in this species. Preliminary investigations indicate that hookworm infection is common in Australian sea lion pups and is likely to be an important cause of mortality in pups.

This projects aims to: investigate the prevalence and intensity of hookworm infection in pups at several Australian sea lion colonies in South Australia; establish the role of hookworm infection in pup mortality in this species; and determine the importance of hookworm and other pathogens in Australian sea lion populations.

**Key words:** Hookworm, *Uncinaria*, Australian sea lion, *Neophoca cinerea*, pinniped, veterinary pathology

## Other Information: (e.g. scholarships/funding available, etc.)

This project will involve veterinary clinical pathology and parasitological investigations, necropsy and histopathology. Periods of field work to enable sample collection from Australian sea lions will be necessary during the course of the project.

The successful applicant will have an Honours 1 degree or equivalent. A degree in Veterinary Science is preferred due to the nature of the project.

The successful applicant must apply for and be awarded a scholarship (stipend) for example, an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), or equivalent.

For more information on this project, please contact Dr Rachael Gray.

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