

Postdoctoral position in Urban Ecology

Are you interested in joining a small flexible research group focused urban ecology? The King's Lab for Urban Ecology led by Dr. Darcy Visscher (KLUE; <https://www.darcyvisscher.com/research>) who studies white-tailed jackrabbit and coyote ecology and interactions with humans in urban Edmonton as the Canada Research Chair in Urban Ecology (Tier 2, <https://www.chairs-chaieres.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>). We work closely with the Edmonton Urban Coyote Project at the University of Alberta (<https://edmontonurbancoyotes.ca>) on shared One Health projects involving the zoonotic parasite *Echinococcus multilocularis* and this is one intended focus for the incumbent.

Urban coyotes in Edmonton are commonly infected with *E. multilocularis*, which is the causative agent in an increasing number of human cases of alveolar echinococcosis in the area. The applicant will develop and initiate a project to determine the feasibility of using commercially available antihelminth medication via baiting at known infection “hotspots” to reduce the prevalence of *E. multilocularis*, as assessed through non-invasive genetic sampling. This approach has been assessed for other species and continents, but it would be a novel application for coyotes in North America where the need for intervention is expected to grow.

The position is conditional on a successful nomination process for an allocated Canada Impact+ Research Training Award to The King's University with nominations due at the end of April 2026. The Canada Impact+ Research Training Award are specifically aimed at attracting (1) top international talent not currently working in Canada or (2) a Canadian who is currently working internationally. The position is a 2-year appointment for \$70,000/yr and must be activated by March 2027. For more details of the program see (<https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/canada-impact-research-training-awards-qa>)

For more information, please contact Darcy Visscher (darcy.visscher@kingsu.ca)

Responsibilities:

- Develop new research questions in consultation with the principal investigators.
- Assist on ongoing research projects conducted by the lab.
- Lead and participate in producing manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals.
- Help develop and submit research grants for new and ongoing work.
- Present research findings at conferences and stakeholder meetings.
- Contribute to a collegial lab environment and provide informal mentorship to graduate and undergraduate students.

Qualification:

- PhD in biology, ecology, conservation, wildlife management, or a related discipline.
- Proficiency in R and related software for data analysis and visualization.
- Evidence of research productivity (publications and manuscripts in preparation).
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.