
Alex Munteanu: Expert in veterinary medicine, cognitive biology and cognition & communication

„Our company Four Paws deals with the challenges around the topic of animal welfare. A significant sub-area here deals with rescuing endangered animals in protected areas and nurturing them back to health. The scope of tasks here ranges from private animal husbandry to animal transports on European territory and beyond. Particular challenges here are the creation of a Europe-wide system for the registration of animals.“



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Alex Munteanu
Four Paws
Branch of large international enterprise
Sector: Animal Welfare Related Issue, Animal Protection
Position: Animal Welfare Scientist in the Science Unit

My field of expertise and professional background are veterinary medicine and cognitive biology. I am entrusted with the scientific supervision of the Animal Welfare project, here fields of work arise from project development to project management. I applied for a job at the NGO and actually got the position. The change from the academic world to the private sector was clearly noticeable: the structure of the work environment is completely different, for example the level of free time is regulated quite differently, which of course brings advantages and disadvantages in each case. I gained an advantage over working at the university primarily in the gain in structure. A Welcome Days handbook helped me a lot to get to know the relevant institutions and how they work. At the university, on the other hand, you usually have a free hand in the work process - the supervisor is more

in a supporting position here. In addition, economic or political reasons often play a role in professional decision-making, which have to be taken into account in different ways at the university or private level. Probably the most important skill I use in my daily work is appropriate communication with different stakeholders. This includes learning to deal with the difficulty of addressing scientific content to a non-scientific audience. Another fundamental insight was that further education in the subject, but also in science communication, is never finished, but that new interest and motivation are always needed here. For the necessary skills in the field of work, my employer gave me access to continuing education opportunities. I think that the combination of scientific accuracy and political or economic feasibility is of clear advantage in the job market.