Project title: Investigating the occurrence of zoonotic pathogens in small mammalian wildlife.

Primary contact: Simon Jeeves – MSc Candidate, Department of Pathobiology, OVC
(sjeeves@uoguelph.ca)

Faculty contact: Dr. Claire Jardine – Associate Professor, Department of Pathobiology, OVC
(cjardi01@uoguelph.ca)

Project description: This project is part of a broader initiative, in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and Sunnybrook Research Institute, to investigate the prevalence and health impacts on wildlife of SARS-CoV-2 and other zoonotic pathogens. The primary objective of this summer research project is to sample wild small mammal species (e.g., mice, voles, shrews, rats) from different urban locations in Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario. These samples will be tested for a variety of zoonotic pathogens, including SARS CoV-2, Leptospira spp., and Bartonella spp.

The summer student will work closely with MSc candidate, Simon Jeeves, and will gain experience with field work (including trapping and handling small mammalian wildlife for biological sample collection), post-mortem techniques, data input and management (including mapping), and data analysis.

The tentative start date for this position is Monday, May 2nd, 2022. Requirements for the position include, proof of a protective rabies titre, a class G drivers license, and early morning field work. The successful applicant will complete basic WHMIS and laboratory safety training and will also need to be fit-tested for N95 respirator usage during field work.

To apply please send your CV, a copy of your unofficial transcript, and a brief cover letter to Simon Jeeves (sjeeves@uoguelph.ca). The closing date for applications is Tuesday, March 1st, 2022 @ 12:00PM.