



The Norecopa 3Rs Prize for 2026 is awarded to Dr. Alexandra Thiel for her significant contribution to the refinement of animal research.

Although she only just completed her PhD in 2025, Dr. Thiel has already made important and lasting contributions to the application of the 3Rs in wildlife research for more than 10 years.

Her work focuses particularly on brown bears, where she has investigated the short- and long-term effects of capture, handling, and marking on animal welfare. By combining physiological and behavioural data, she has provided a scientific basis for evaluating how research procedures affect animals and for identifying opportunities for refinement.

Her findings have led to improvements in capture methods, consideration of long-acting analgesics for specific procedures, and the development of improved biomedical protocols.

In addition, Dr. Thiel contributes actively to training and education, promoting good practice and increased awareness of the 3Rs among researchers and students.

For her scientific excellence, her leadership in ethical research practice and her unwavering commitment to improving animal welfare in field research, it is with great pride that we award the Norecopa 3Rs Prize to Dr. Alexandra Thiel.