Pig Emotion and Cognition

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Over the recent years, research on animals' emotions and cognition has grown greatly, which offered new perspectives on animal sentience and had major repercussions for animal welfare. Additionally, better understanding of animals' emotions and cognition also resulted in better science.

The cognitive abilities of pigs are known to be complex and broad: from spatial learning and memory to the recognition of conspecifics, humans, and objects. There is some evidence of more complex cognitive abilities in pigs such as time perception and perspective-taking, which suggest the existence of self-awareness and complex emotions.

Pigs' emotions have also been a recent focus of scientific investigations. Environmental features (e.g. opportunities for play, environmental enrichment) and human–animal interactions were found to influence pigs' emotional state. Emotional contagion, which may relate to empathic abilities, was observed in pigs.

Better understanding of pigs' emotions and cognition can promote better welfare on farms. Therefore, this Special Issue aims to present research papers and reviews on the recent advances in this important subject.

Special Issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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