

Special Issue

The Behaviour, Needs and Welfare of Pinnipeds in Human Care

Message from the Guest Editor

The reasons that pinnipeds may be kept in captivity include public display in zoos and aquaria, captive breeding for conservation purposes, scientific research, and temporary captivity for rehabilitation of stranded animals. Historically, poor understanding of the natural behaviours and habitats of pinniped species may have led to limited understanding by human carers of how captive pinnipeds' social and physical environment would affect their mental and physical state. Now, however, there is a growing plethora of literature on pinniped behaviour and ecology, which can inform the modern design of captive animals' social and physical environment in such a way as to allow the expression of the natural behaviour repertoire and full cognitive capacities and eliminate stereotypic behaviours. Deep sea environments and natural prey can seldom be simulated in captivity. However, most pinnipeds are highly social around their coastal (or ice) habitats, which may inform enclosure design and 3D aquatic space required for physical and mental health. Thus, studies are required to create an ethogram for each species and develop welfare assessment tools accordingly.

Guest Editor

Dr. Susan C. Wilson

Tara Seal Research, 141 Victoria Road, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire LN12 2AL, UK

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Animals
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
animals@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

1. Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Kreutzwaldi 1, 51014 Tartu, Estonia
2. Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute, Kent St., Bentley 6102, Australia

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