

Special Issue

Best Practices for Zoo Animal Welfare Management

Message from the Guest Editors

Ensuring the highest possible standards of animal welfare has become a key priority for modern institutions responsible for the care of wild animals (hereafter referred to collectively as zoos). To thrive, zoos should embrace animal welfare as a guiding principle, the pathway through which they achieve their institutional goals, and a fundamental end in itself. Zoos, therefore, must be conceived with animal welfare at their core, employ working practices that enhance this welfare, and ultimately serve the purpose of promoting it. Moreover, they must consider and incorporate animal welfare in a comprehensive and cross-cutting manner across all levels and areas of their operation. In this context, designing, evaluating, and disseminating best practices in animal welfare management is critical in enhancing zoos' global capacity to care for wild animals. As the role of zoos becomes ever more vital in light of ongoing biodiversity loss, the adoption of scientifically grounded welfare practices is essential not only in the ethical treatment of animals but also in conservation, research, and the achievement of educational objectives.

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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.

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