

Special Issue

Gastrointestinal Microbial Balance and Equine Health: Current Insights and Future Directions

Message from the Guest Editor

The rapid improvements in, and accessibility to, sequencing technology have vastly expanded microbiome research in all areas related to biological systems. It is well known that the microbial community which exists within the equine gastrointestinal tract (GIT) is crucial to the nutritional status of the horse. Many relevant diseases have also been linked to the equine GI microbiota including (but certainly not limited to): colitis, post-partum colic, laminitis, and equine grass sickness. Research into the equine GI microbiota has demonstrated how connected this system is to equine nutrition, health, management, and welfare. It is abundantly clear that as this area of research continues to grow, there are more questions than answers. Although the majority of research has been performed on bacteria, the complex and dynamic microbial community residing in the equine GIT includes fungi, viruses, phages, protozoa, and archaea. Therefore, the purpose of this Special Issue is to provide a collection of research that encompasses the current state of knowledge regarding the equine GI microbiome and its relationship to equine wellbeing.

Guest Editor

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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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