

Special Issue

Animal Ontogeny, Plasticity and Ecology

Message from the Guest Editor

The control of ecology by development in animals is the theme of this Special Issue. Habitat, food and social interaction are recast in an ecological lifespan perspective as active interactions between organism and environment rather than as drivers of conflict. Conversely, a traditional and still-influential view due to Leigh Van Valen portrays organisms as essentially genetically driven and environmentally responsive.. Life-history ecology, habitat ecology, foraging and food-gathering ecology, and social ecology of immature and developing animals are supporting themes of this special issue. The biology of active animal-environment interaction is a key focus. Play behavior enters this picture as a source of behavioral plasticity, flexibility, creativity, and novelty driving longer-term phylogenetic change. The ecology of such play is a keynote of SI. The view of history of life on earth serves to complement, not to contradict key insights offered by comparative psychology and cognitive science. Pluralistically and synthetically, these separate fields are expected to yield novel insights into manifold designs that emerge from active interactions between organism and environment.

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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