

## Special Issue

# Exploring the Psychological and Physiological Impact of Human-Animal Bonding on Companion Animals

### Message from the Guest Editor

In some animal species—those we identify as “companion” animals—the affective bond with humans is lifelong and a fundamental determinant of the development and functioning of psychological, affective and physiological processes. Nonetheless, the mechanisms regulating this unique affective relationship remain unevenly characterized across species, life stages, and contexts. We are pleased to invite you to contribute to this Special Issue which further explores the impact of the human–animal bond on companion animal cognition, personality traits, emotion regulation, stress responses, health, quality of life, and overall welfare. This Special Issue aims to assemble hypothesis-driven and exploratory studies using a multimodal research approach that integrates indicators across behavioral, endocrine, neurobiological and immunological domains, and that leverages robust and reproducible designs. No a priori restriction on species will be applied. Accordingly, studies may also focus on non-conventional species, or even on animals commonly classified as farm animals, provided they are kept for companionship rather than for productive purposes.

### Guest Editor

Dr. Giacomo Riggio  
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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

15 July 2026



## Animals

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## About the Journal

### 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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### Editor-in-Chief

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