

Special Issue

Assistance Dogs: Health and Welfare in Animal-Assisted Services

Message from the Guest Editor

Since the mid-18th century, dogs have been trained to assist humans in overcoming their disabilities. Public appreciation for assistance dogs and the vital roles they play in mitigating the effects of human impairments has steadily grown and has recently culminated in a concomitant concern for the animals' own welfare and wellbeing. An awareness of the potential aspects of assistance dog ownership that may produce poor animal welfare states has led to higher public expectations of the owners' duty of care and less lenience toward inadequate dog care. This Special Issue invites recent original research, critical reviews, and expert commentaries regarding the health, welfare, and wellbeing of assistance dogs, including Hearing Dogs, Guide Dogs, Mobility Dogs, Medical Alert Dogs, Autism Dogs, and Psychiatric Assistance Dogs. Articles pertaining to behavioral and training concerns are also of interest, as well as ethical considerations of these human–animal interactions. This edition aims to contribute to appropriate service standards and policies that fulfill the obligation to provide assistance dogs with the optimal conditions for thriving.

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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