

## Special Issue

# People and Pets: Factors Affecting the Acquisition, Characteristics and Relinquishment of Companion Animal Relationships

### Message from the Guest Editors

Pet ownership is the most common form of human–animal interaction, and is prevalent worldwide. In the UK, the RSPCA takes in thousands of pets each year and, of those adopted, up to 20% are returned to shelters, which can be stressful for both the animal and the owner. Reasons to return a pet include the owner’s health and unrealistic expectations of ownership duties. Wider social environments may also influence the adoption and return of pets to animal shelters. For instance, during the Coronavirus pandemic, interest in pet ownership increased during lockdowns and was sustained for some once restrictions were lifted, but not for all types of pets. As our climate continues to change and the cost-of-living crisis escalates, the importance of research into crisis-driven changes in human–animal relationships increases. This Special Issue will give an overview of the most recent research in this area and provide an impetus to move the field on through an implementation of interventions to optimize compatibility and reduce negative outcomes for both people and pets.

### Guest Editors

Dr. Lindsay Murray

School of Psychology, University of Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ, UK

Dr. Janine Carroll

School of Psychology, University of Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ, UK

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

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## Animals

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*Animals*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[animals@mdpi.com](mailto:animals@mdpi.com)

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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

Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

1. Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Kreutzwaldi 1, 51014 Tartu, Estonia
2. Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute, Kent St., Bentley 6102, Australia

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