

Special Issue

Working Equids: Welfare, Health and Behavior

Message from the Guest Editors

Working equids—such as donkeys, mules, and working horses—are indispensable to the livelihoods of millions of people around the world. Despite their vital roles in transport, agriculture, and daily subsistence activities, their health, welfare, and behavioral needs are often under-recognized and underserved. Ensuring the well-being of these animals requires a thorough understanding of the physical, psychological, and social challenges they face in diverse working environments. We are pleased to invite you to submit original research articles, critical reviews, and commentaries addressing the welfare, health, and behavior of working equids. Particular attention will be given to the interaction between human care practices and the biological and behavioral needs of these animals across various geographic, cultural, and economic contexts. Research areas may include (but are not limited to) the following: welfare assessment, access to veterinary care, working conditions, behavioral indicators of stress and pain, human–animal interaction, environmental and management factors, and community-based approaches to improving equid welfare.

Guest Editors

Dr. Barbara Padalino
Prof. Dr. Christopher Riley
Prof. Dr. Anna May

Deadline for manuscript submissions

15 November 2026



Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/250113

Animals
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
animals@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
animals](https://mdpi.com/journal/animals)





Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/
animals](https://mdpi.com/journal/animals)



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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

1. Curtin University Sustainable Policy (CUSP) Institute, Curtin University, Kent St., Bentley, Western Australia 6102, Australia
 2. Former Foundation Professor of Animal Welfare, University of Queensland and Foundation Director, Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
-

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, Embase, PubAg, AGRIS, Animal Science Database, CAB Abstracts, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q1 (Veterinary Sciences) / CiteScore - Q1 (General Veterinary)