Special Issue

Artificial Intelligence as a Useful Tool in Behavioural Studies

Message from the Guest Editors

Animal monitoring is crucial for understanding behavior and social dynamics. Focal animal sampling provides detailed insights into individual animals, shaping conservation strategies, particularly for captive species. Displaying natural behaviors is vital for their welfare and reintroduction success. Advances in artificial intelligence (AI), especially machine learning (ML), offer new opportunities in behavioral sciences. User-friendly ML tools enhance research reproducibility and reduce workloads by automating behavioral trait quantification, enabling robust comparative studies and quantitative conclusions. Integrating AI into behavioral studies is critical for wild and captive populations, facilitating welfare assessments and attracting researchers in animal production. This Special Issue invites original research, reviews, and technical notes exploring AI applications in behavioral studies. Topics include:

- ML potential in behavioral studies
- Automation of behavioral science using ML
- Synergies between ML and traditional methods

We look forward to your contributions to advancing AI in behavioral research.

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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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