

Special Issue

Beavers: Nature's Master Builders and Environmental Engineers

Message from the Guest Editor

Beavers are unique rodents, living their semi-aquatic lifestyles in fresh water habitats which they can modify to suit their needs. The two extant species, the Eurasian and North American beaver, represent the remaining members of a once much larger evolutionary clade.

Habitat loss and decline, along with industrial-scale hunting and trading in their fur, have seen both species nearly rendered extinct. However, the beaver also represents a conservation success story with rapid recovery and expansion. Today, the remarkable abilities of beavers to adapt, modify and create wetland habitats which host multiple plant and animal species is increasingly recognised. As keystone species, their capacity as ecosystem engineers is generating widespread interest in their role in restoring natural processes and boosting biodiversity. Beaver activities can be challenging in some modern and heavily modified land use systems; therefore, various mitigation and management practices have been implemented. As beaver populations expand and increase in density, mechanisms for co-existence to maximise the ecosystem services they could provide to wider society whilst minimising conflicts should be sought.

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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