

Special Issue

Health, Nutrition and Productivity: What Is the Connection to the Poultry Gastrointestinal Microbiota?

Message from the Guest Editor

The bird gut microbiota plays a crucial role in the upkeep of intestinal health through its ability to control host physiological functions required to maintain intestinal homeostasis. This is achieved through the competitive exclusion of detrimental microorganisms and pathogens, which prevents colonization and decreases the expense of energy that birds normally invest in keeping their immune systems active against these pathogens. A healthy intestinal microbiota indicates energy saving for the host, which translates into an improvement in the productive performance of the birds. Genetics, nutrition, management, welfare, etc., all play a role for birds in maintaining optimized performance and ensuring the homeostatic state of the microbiota.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 May 2024)



Animals

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



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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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