Special Issue

Assistance Dogs—What Should We Focus On

Message from the Guest Editors

The role of assistance dogs in society for the blind and individuals with motoric disabilities is widely recognized by the public. However, the use of assistance dogs is expanding into new fields, such as mental illnesses, and thus raises new questions of recognition but also concerns about animal safety and welfare being adequately taken into consideration. Moreover, there are still areas that remain under-addressed in the field of assistance dogs, e.g., studies on the attachment between the recipient and the assistance dog, its role in the family as such, and what happens when the dogs must retire or die, including possible handler grief. In this Special Issue, we invite submissions of original manuscripts on all aspects of assistance dogs, such as the relationship between dogs and recipients, pet grief, safety and animal welfare, the training and certification of assistance dogs (guidelines, what type of knowledge is needed), acquiring an assistance dog as a process of transition, the integration of assistance dogs with rehabilitation, etc. All manuscripts must consider animal welfare.

Guest Editors

Dr. Tia G.B. Hansen

Department of Communication and Psychology, Aalborg University, 9000 Aalborg, Denmark

Dr. Chalotte Glintborg

Department of Communication and Psychology, Aalborg University, 9000 Aalborg, Denmark

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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.

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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