

Special Issue

Mustelid Behavior and Communication

Message from the Guest Editor

The Mustelidae are so-named due to their anal sac secretions that produce a distinct, musky odor. The family includes river otters, sea otters, mink, wolverines, martens, fishers, stoats, polecats, weasels, badgers, and ferrets. Only one member has been domesticated, and it is a common pet, companion hunter, and laboratory animal: *Mustela putorius furo*. In the past, many members have been hunted to near extinction or decimated in regions for their fur. The mink (*Mustela vison*) is farmed for its fur. While many species are solitary, others are extremely social and have complex societal behaviors. All are strict carnivores, with similar dentition, non-retractable claws, and good vision. Most exhibit a wide range of vocalizations. I invite original research papers that examine details of mustelid behavior and communications, including how these affect conservation efforts, social interactions, impacts on medical care and rehabilitation, and our understanding of those kept in captivity, including zoo mustelids and pet ferrets.

Guest Editor

Dr. Cathy A. Johnson-Delaney
Exotic DVM Forum, Edmonds, WA, USA

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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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