

Special Issue

Insights on Donkey, Mule, and Horse Welfare - Causes, Solutions, and Prospects

Message from the Guest Editor

Donkeys, mules, and horses have played a central role in societies throughout history. These animals were central to agriculture, transportation, warfare, and played vital roles in building cities and roads before the development of the automobile. Today there are an estimated 100 million working horses, mules, and donkeys worldwide. In wealthier societies of North America, Western Europe, and Japan equids are involved in sport and performance, and personal ownership as companion animals. In contrast, most horses, mules, and donkeys are working draft animals in the rest of the world, serving an entirely different function in civilization. The awareness of the welfare needs in all these diverse and culturally different environments has been a growing concern worldwide. Welfare science seeks to obtain relevant research to answer questions to improve the lives of equids in their various roles around the world and expand welfare beyond the five freedoms toward a goal of a life worth living. This special issue is seeking information including reviews, and original research on causes, solutions, and prospects for improved welfare of horses, donkeys and mules.

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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