

Special Issue

Obesity in Pets: Risk, Prevention, and Treatment

Message from the Guest Editor

Research in the US, Australia and Europe estimates that 40–60% of pet dogs are obese, resulting in lifelong health problems including arthritis, diabetes, poor quality of life and reduced longevity. A number of factors likely contribute to this problem, including owner's knowledge of correct body condition, over-feeding meals and treats and a lack of regular exercise. Some treatments that have been investigated are owner education, veterinary-lead dietary management, and involving the owner and the dog in a weight-loss program. However, these programs frequently have a small effect and half of dogs regain the weight. The prevention of obesity is a more powerful approach, but is equally problematic and must focus on owner education and regular monitoring of a dog's body condition. A major barrier to prevention is the owners perception of a dog's body condition. Creative approaches to better owner education, treatment and prevention are needed. The aim of this issue is to highlight research regarding preventing obesity, the health consequences of obesity and effective treatment strategies that engage the owner.

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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