

Special Issue

Investigations of the Oral Microbiota in Health and Disease in Companion Animals

Message from the Guest Editors

Current techniques for microbiome analysis have revolutionized our understanding of the crosstalk between the host immune system and host-associated microbes in both healthy and diseased states. Complex ecosystems of microorganisms live in association with animal hosts, and of these, the microbial ecosystems in the oral cavity are amongst the most complex. Commensal bacteria in oral mucosa play key roles in the development and functioning of the host immune system. Mucosal surfaces in the oral cavity are continually barraged with food and airborne antigens entering the gastrointestinal tract that may trigger immune responses. Interactions between the microbiome and innate and adaptive arms of host immunity help the host to respond appropriately to these triggers. Depletion of commensal bacteria in the microbiome because of antibiotic use may be contributing to a rise in allergies, autoimmune conditions, and inflammatory disorders.

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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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