Special Issue

The Effect of Early-Life Stress on the Welfare and Performance of Animals

Message from the Guest Editor

Early life stress in animals can adversely affect behavior, physiology, health, and overall well-being, particularly when it occurs during critical, vulnerable phases of life. This is due to intricate biological processes that are shaped by a mix of genetic, epigenetic, maternal, and environmental influences. The perinatal phase is particularly significant in determining how individuals respond to their surroundings. The timing of early-life stress thus plays a crucial role in shaping long-term outcomes. We welcome original research papers that address any aspect of prenatal and postnatal stress. considering both the short-term and long-term effects on animal growth, reproduction, productivity, health, and welfare. We especially welcome papers that integrate physiological metrics with behavioral and immunological factors and proteomics; investigate stress-mediated effects on gut microbiota and immune function; examine the long-term consequences of prenatal and postnatal stress; and identify mechanisms and/or biomarkers associated with an animal's ability to adapt.

Guest Editor

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About the Journal

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

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