

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.

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