

Special Issue

Human-Animal Interactions and Their Relationships with Animal Welfare, Emotions, and Personality

Message from the Guest Editors

Human-animal interaction (HAI) involves any contact between humans and animals, and includes different aspects such as tactile, visual, olfactory, and auditory perception. These interactions can take place, even with domesticated and wild animals, in a myriad of environments such as farms, residences, laboratory, and zoos. The HAI can be categorized as positive, neutral, or negative in nature by the way humans perform their contact with animals. Animals may react spontaneously to human characteristics, or they may learn to associate the human presence and behavior with the type of practices used toward them. Moreover, HAIs can result in physiological and behavioral changes in animals, thereby influencing animal welfare, fitness, and, in the case of farm animals, the productive performance. The interfaces between HAI and animal welfare may also be explored under the scope of the mental states and emotions of both animals and humans.

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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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