

Special Issue

Working Dogs: Behavioral, Ethical, and Societal Dimensions of Human–Animal Teaming

Message from the Guest Editor

Unlike standard pet ownership, which is based on affection and companionship, the relationship between humans and working dogs in contexts such as search and rescue is centered on professionalism and teamwork. Understanding this dynamic is crucial to improving operational efficacy. Working dogs play critical roles due to their olfactory acuity, trainability, and social intelligence. However, their success depends not only on individual skill but also on the quality of the dog–handler bond. Strong bonding fosters trust, enhances communication, and improves resilience under pressure. As organizations increasingly rely on canine teams, understanding relational dynamics is vital for both performance and welfare.

This Special Issue aims to gather the latest findings on the behavioral, ethical, and societal aspects of human–working dog relationships. We welcome original research and reviews from fields such as animal welfare, behavior, human–animal interactions, ethics of working animals, and related interdisciplinary studies.

Guest Editor

Dr. Heather Lum

Human Systems Engineering, Fulton School of Engineering, Arizona State University, Mesa, AZ 85212, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 May 2026



Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/251764

Animals
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
animals@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
animals](https://mdpi.com/journal/animals)





Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/
animals](https://mdpi.com/journal/animals)



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

Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips
Curtin University Sustainable Policy (CUSP) Institute, Curtin University,
Kent St., Bentley, WA 6102, Australia

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, Embase, PubAg, AGRIS, Animal Science Database, CAB Abstracts, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q1 (Veterinary Sciences) / CiteScore - Q1 (General Veterinary)