Special Issue

Research Animal Welfare: Current Practices and Future Directions

Message from the Guest Editors

The use of research animals remains essential for conducting biomedical research and advancing both human and veterinary medicine. However, it is a significant responsibility and ensuring animal welfare must always be a top priority. Key components for improving welfare include high-quality animal husbandry and healthcare, comprehensive staff training, and an effective post-approval monitoring (PAM) process. Training personnel in proper animal handling and experimental procedures is essential for minimizing animal distress. The PAM process ensures that research complies with approved protocols and regulations, safeguarding animal welfare throughout the study. We seek strategies and tools that can improve animal welfare and explore how automated and continuous animal monitoring through artificial intelligence and digital biomarkers can advance welfare practices.

Guest Editors

Dr. Bhupinder Singh

Comparative Medicine Resources, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA

Dr. Patricia V. Turner

Department of Pathobiology, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1, Canada

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

mdpi.com/journal/ animals





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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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Kreutzwaldi 1, 51014 Tartu, Estonia
 Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute, Kent St., Bentley 6102, Australia

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