

Special Issue

Human–Animal Interaction: Animal Behaviour and Whole- Person Health in Animal- Assisted Interventions

Message from the Guest Editor

Animal-assisted interventions are increasingly being utilized as a non-pharmacological approach to help meet the physical, psychological, and social needs of individuals. Animal-assisted interventions (AAs), an umbrella term encompassing both animal-assisted therapy and animal-assisted activities, are defined by the International Association of Human–Animal Interaction Organizations as “goal oriented and structured interventions that intentionally include or incorporate animals in health, education and human services (e.g., social work) for the purpose of therapeutic gains in humans”. In recent years, the health benefits of AAs have received increased attention, and the aim of this Special Issue is to highlight their role in promoting whole-person health across various domains of well-being. This Issue welcomes research with various populations spanning the life course, including children through older adults. Additionally, this Special Issue also welcomes research that sheds light on various animal behaviours that can impact the therapeutic bond between humans and animals, such as, communicative signals, stimulus response, gazing, and stress reactions.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 December 2025



Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/230386

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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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