

## Special Issue

# Sports Medicine, Health, Welfare, Rehabilitation, and Aftercare of Racehorses

### Message from the Guest Editors

Due to social licenses putting increased pressure on horse sports, and particularly racing horses, the health and wellbeing of horses under our care has never been more important. This Special Issue will focus on the science around optimizing the health, welfare, and wellbeing of racehorses within and after their racing careers. This intentionally broader scope encompasses the entirety of the racehorses' career after it enters racing, with a focus on positive interventions intended to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. Its purpose is to broaden the conversation within the racing industry beyond a focus on optimizing performance and towards optimizing performance within an industry with the primary outcome of always protecting the health and wellbeing of its equine participants. It is intended that this Special Issue will provide valuable additional scientific data to further the implementation of wellbeing-orientated outcomes. In doing so, it intends to provide a broad range of stakeholders within the racing industry with the information necessary to make evidence-based decisions relating to racehorse health and wellbeing.

---

### Guest Editors

Dr. Ben Sykes

BW Sykes Consultancy, Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia

Dr. Amy Lovett

School of Veterinary Science, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW, Australia

---

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2026)



## Animals

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 2.7  
CiteScore 5.2  
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/si/223974](https://mdpi.com/si/223974)

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

1. Curtin University Sustainable Policy (CUSP) Institute, Curtin University, Kent St., Bentley, Western Australia 6102, Australia
  2. Former Foundation Professor of Animal Welfare, University of Queensland and Foundation Director, Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 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 )