

Special Issue

Companion Animal Welfare: A Focus on Ethics and Laws

Message from the Guest Editors

Companion animals play an essential role in human society, raising complex questions about welfare standards, ethical obligations, and legal responsibilities.

This Special Issue explores the intersection between ethics and law in companion animal welfare, highlighting current challenges, innovative approaches, and future directions. We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions analyzing legal frameworks, ethical debates, and their practical implications worldwide. We invite submissions on current challenges, comparative legal perspectives, policy development, enforcement, and ethical dilemmas in veterinary practice.

By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, this Special Issue seeks to advance knowledge and inform scientific and societal approaches to ensuring companion animal well-being. Original research and reviews are welcome. Topics may include: legal frameworks and enforcement; ethical considerations in ownership, breeding, and euthanasia; regulation of trade, adoption, and breeding practices, liability and legal responsibility for neglect and abuse; technology and innovation for animal welfare; and companion animals in therapy, service roles, and public spaces.

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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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