

Special Issue

The World's Lagomorphs: Close to 100 to Explore

Message from the Guest Editors

Rabbits, hares, and pikas, the latter being the least well known of the group, make up the order Lagomorpha. The health, condition, and role within their respective ecosystems vary between countries and even between different regions of the same country. The European rabbit, for example, is considered a plague in some areas, whilst simultaneously being at risk of extinction in others. The social, economic, but above all, ecological importance of hares, rabbits, and pikas make these species very interesting to conservationists as well as animal health and scientific communities. However, they are threatened by a multitude of viral, parasitic, and bacterial diseases that are impacting their conservation statuses. The most notable example of this is the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), which has been affected by several infectious diseases, particularly those of viral aetiology such as rabbit haemorrhagic disease and myxomatosis, consequently being listed as Endangered by the IUCN in 2019.

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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.

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