

Special Issue

Management of Peri-Parturient and Lactating Sows and Piglets

Message from the Guest Editor

The farrowing crate is the predominant system for managing lactating sows and their piglets. Although it serves an important purpose in maximising the numbers of pigs weaned per sow, there is increasing concern about the negative consequences for sow welfare. This includes compromised ability to move, perform nesting and mothering behaviour, and exert control over the environment. Sows have also become considerably larger over the past 30 years, and give birth to a greater number of piglets. Thus many traditional crate systems are now too small to accommodate the animals comfortably. There has also been a concurrent increase in the proportion of small and weak piglets, and in piglet mortality. Thus promotion of the growth, survival and well-being of piglets is of increasing importance. There is growing scientific and political attention being paid to the concept of providing animals with a 'life worth living', and the promotion of positive experiences for animals. Thus, strategies that can optimise animal welfare while allowing for economic sustainability warrant investigation. This Special Issue welcomes submissions on any aspect of sow and piglet management.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 October 2019)



Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



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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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