

Special Issue

Stress, Adaptation and Poultry Welfare: Enhancing Quality of Life Through Multidisciplinary Approaches

Message from the Guest Editors

The poultry industry today is highly intensive, however, the over-intensification of poultry farming can cause scientifically proven suffering to birds. The environment of a chicken is a composite of interacting stressors, and a bird's success in coping with its environment, therefore, depends on the severity of the stressors and its physiological ability to respond appropriately. Understanding how birds perceive, respond to, and adapt to environmental and management-related challenges is critical for improving welfare. This Special Issue focuses on the biology of stress and adaptation in poultry through multidisciplinary approaches integrating behavior, physiology, genetics, nutrition, and management. Topics include physiological and epigenetic mechanisms, as well as the microbiome–gut–brain axis underlying fear and coping ability. Focus will be given to the role of early life experiences in shaping stress responsiveness and resilience. This Special Issue also welcomes studies elucidating strategies to alleviate stress through human–animal interactions, environmental enrichment, and nutritional interventions.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Idrus

Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, UPM Serdang, Selangor 43400, Malaysia

Dr. Sharmila Ahmad

Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, UPM Serdang, Selangor 43400, Malaysia

Deadline for manuscript submissions

20 January 2027



Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/277081

Animals
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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)