Special Issue

Why Animals Die: Forensic Science in Veterinary Practice

Message from the Guest Editors

Animal cruelty, also called animal abuse, is a significant problem affecting nonhuman animals. It includes various types of behaviors that cause unnecessary pain or stress to animals, such as neglect and physical violence. Abuse experienced by animals may come from customs such as religious rites or dog or cockfighting. It is important to detect this type of behavior not only to protect animals in society, but also because it is a potential indicator of interpersonal violence. Although each country, state or local administration has different animal protection laws with specific actions prohibited against companion and wild animals, they all share the same premise of ensuring animal welfare. This Special Issue on veterinary forensics seeks to reveal and denounce different types of animal mistreatment, some of which are not yet described in the current literature.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Antonio Rodríguez-Bertos

Animal Pathology and Veterinary Forensic Service, VISAVET/Department of Internal Medicine and Animal Surgery, Veterinary School, Complutense University, Avda Puerta de Hierro s/n, 28040 Madrid, Spain

Dr. Agustín Rebollada-Merino

Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, Section of Anatomic Pathology, Cornell University Animal Health Diagnostic Center, New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Ithaca, NY, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 November 2025



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7 CiteScore 5.2 Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/234412

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

mdpi.com/journal/ animals





an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7 CiteScore 5.2 Indexed in PubMed



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

Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Kreutzwaldi 1, 51014 Tartu, Estonia
 Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute, Kent St., Bentley 6102, 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)

