

# Topical Collection

## Welfare of Animals in Livestock Production Systems and at Slaughter

### Message from the Collection Editor

The current legislation for animal welfare often defines only minimum requirements and does not yet prevent animal welfare-related problems from being widespread in all production stages. Examples range from lameness in dairy cows to tail biting in fattening pigs and feather pecking in laying hens. As prophylaxis and to minimize these problems, interventions are carried out on animals associated with pain, such as dehorning calves, shortening the tail of piglets, and beak-trimming of chicks. Inappropriate treatment of animals at the slaughterhouse and insufficient assessment of adequate stunning at the slaughterhouse also impair the animals' well-being. Improvements have become part of retail communication, not least because consumers increasingly demand ethically correct livestock handling. To date, however, not all questions and relationships of the known problems and their occurrence have been conclusively clarified.

Topics on the development and evaluation of new housing systems, environmental enrichment, alternatives to zootechnical measures, humane handling and slaughter, and other research on the support of health and animal well-being are of particular interest.

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### Collection Editor

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## Animals

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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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### Editor-in-Chief

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