

Special Issue

The Biopsychosocial Nature of Dolphins

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue on the biopsychosocial nature of dolphins covers a breadth of behavioral features of free-ranging dolphins, seeking to describe a “day in the life” of a free-ranging bottlenose dolphin, highlighting manifestations of feeding and food sharing, fission–fusion dynamics, reproductive and calf-rearing cycles, conflict and peacemaking, play, and inherent communications of aerial behaviors. Select indicators of greater social complexity are reviewed such as babysitting, self-decoration, and peacemaking, followed by anecdotes that provide glimpses of even greater social complexity, such as third-party intervention on behalf of a harassed calf, as opportunities for hypothesis generation. Field data collection techniques cover population and behavioral sampling with and without recognizing individual dolphins in the field, exploring the advantages and disadvantages of photo identification and drone work. This Special Issue considers data that can be gleaned from strandings, and reviews what is known about healing at sea without medical intervention against published claims of the exceptional healing abilities of dolphins.

Guest Editor

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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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