

Special Issue

The Ethics of Euthanasia of Companion Animals

Message from the Guest Editors

Euthanasia is both a technique and a moral endeavor. In this Special Issue, the question of how to kill animals is deferred to the moral question, why and under which circumstances euthanasia can be justified. The veterinarian as a moral agent faces the decision, whether, when, why and how to kill a (companion) animal. Different value judgements arise among the team and, in comparison, with the owner. To shed light on the topic, a comparison between companion animals, farm animals, animals in a zoo, shelter animals, and even humans seems promising. Marginal cases (e.g., a horse as cattle or riding horse) can be helpful as litmus test for ethical considerations. Alternatives to euthanasia, such as animal hospice, gain significance and moral weight. We invite both empirical and analytical paper submissions on any aspect of the ethics of euthanasia of animals. Medical, philosophical, legal and related views from different countries and cultural backgrounds are welcome.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (20 December 2022)



Animals

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/87134

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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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