

Special Issue

Applied Hedgehog Conservation Research

Message from the Guest Editors

Despite their protected status and widespread popularity, the abundance of European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) is steadily or strongly declining in several European countries, especially in rural areas. This decline is likely due to multiple factors, including habitat loss and fragmentation, a decline in the availability of invertebrate prey, and negative interspecific influences. Due to their secretive nocturnal habits and similar appearance, the long-term monitoring of this species is very time consuming. Thus, this Special Issue will include studies that contribute to the development of improved protection measures for the hedgehog, for example:

- Studies showing significant impacts on the behaviour and population dynamics of hedgehogs;
- Proven and effective protection measures for hedgehogs;
- Methods producing reliable population density estimates;
- Methods that improve long-term and large-scale monitoring; and
- Genetic studies of hedgehog populations.

Guest Editors

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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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