

Special Issue

Behaviour and Welfare of Laying Hens

Message from the Guest Editor

Overall global consumption of eggs continues to rise, but at the same time, there is an increasing demand for non-cage production systems, which are perceived by consumers to offer improved laying hen welfare. The concern for hen welfare is driving voluntary or legal bans on the practice of beak-trimming in many countries. Major egg procurement companies such as global restaurant chains and retailers have pledged to go cage-free by 2025. The ethics of producing and then killing male chicks at hatching are also under scrutiny, driving new technologies such as in ovo sexing. It is increasingly recognised that rearing is a key stage, laying the foundations for subsequent behaviour, production, health, and welfare. We invite original research papers that consider the behaviour and welfare of laying hens at all stages of production. Those which address the challenges of keeping hens in loose-housed (non-cage) systems are encouraged, particularly for countries which have little experience of large-scale, non-cage production.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 December 2022)



Animals

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



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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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