Special Issue

Use of Social Network Analysis to Evaluate Animal Welfare

Message from the Guest Editor

Social network analysis is increasingly used to describe the patterns and quality of interactions among individuals. The behavior of individuals both affects and is affected by the presence and behavior of others. Social interactions can therefore influence animal welfare. Animals in a variety of environments face similar welfare issues, such as the spread of diseases and social stress. Social network analysis has potential to be a highly useful tool in monitoring welfare and health of animal populations, both domestic and wild. The detection of specific network patterns can help in evaluating animal welfare through the identification of (1) individuals who contribute to the maintenance of good welfare or poor welfare, (2) preferred and avoided social associations, (3) social dynamics that can influence the group stability or instability, (4) spread of an infection through a population and (5) physiological wellbeing in social animals. The aim of this Special Issue is to present recent research and reviews on **"Use of Social Network Analysis to Evaluate Animal Welfare"** with the aim of stimulating interest in, understanding of and exploration of this important field.

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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