

## Special Issue

# Animal-Assisted Interventions for Neurodivergent Individuals: Advancing Research, Practice, and Well-Being

### Message from the Guest Editors

AAIs, including animal-assisted therapy (AAT), animal-assisted education (AAE), and animal-assisted activities (AAAs), have gained increasing recognition for their potential to enhance social, emotional, and cognitive well-being among neurodivergent populations, including individuals on the autism spectrum.

This Special Issue seeks to compile cutting-edge research exploring the efficacy, mechanisms, and practical applications of AAIs for neurodivergent individuals across their lifespan. We welcome original research articles, systematic reviews, and theoretical papers on topics including, but not limited to, the following:

The effectiveness of AAT, AAE, and AAAs in supporting neurodivergent individuals;  
Implementation strategies in clinical, educational, and community settings;  
The role of companion animals in mental health and daily functioning;  
Neurobiological and psychological mechanisms underlying AAIs;  
Ethical considerations, best practices, and policy recommendations.

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### Guest Editors

Dr. Niko Kargas

Dr. Ana Maria Barcelos

Dr. Matina Tsiora

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 October 2025



## Behavioral Sciences

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## About the Journal

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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#### Editor-in-Chief

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manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 29.6 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 3.4 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).