

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.

Guest Editors

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 October 2025)



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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

With warm greetings, it is a pleasure to invite you to contribute a research article or comprehensive review for consideration and publication in *Behavioral Sciences*. *Behavioral Sciences* is an international, scientific, open access journal providing an advanced forum for discussions and research regarding the intersection between psychiatry, neuroscience, psychology, cognitive and behavioral sciences, and behavioral biology. More information are available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/behavsci>. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors and have the opportunity to consider your work for publication.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Jerrell Cassady

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