

Special Issue

Examining Human-Animal Interactions in Zoos and Aquariums

Message from the Guest Editors

Many zoos and aquariums emphasize creating connections between their guests and the animals. Developing a bond between humans and animals is complex, influenced by the environment, social contexts, and the specific intervention employed. While much is known about the outcomes of the human–animal bond, interventions, and general interactions in situations involving companion animals, there is a need to explore these phenomena across diverse taxa. It is established that human–animal interactions have a direct influence on the visitor experience, education, animal wellbeing, and job satisfaction in zookeepers. More evidence is needed to provide zoological managers with the strategies to increase overall effectiveness in these interventions that benefit humans and animals. Through this Special Issue, we aim to continue the conversation surrounding human–animal interactions within zoological spaces and how zoological managers can use evidence-supported practices to achieve mission outcomes through human–animal interactions. Contributions that also use companion animal cases as a base to draw parallels or a potential application in zoological spaces are welcome.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in Journal of Zoological and Botanical Gardens, an international, multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed, open-access and open-source scientific journal that covers areas at the intersection of fauna and flora conservation. It publishes reviews, original research papers, short communications and opinion papers, no restriction on the maximum length of the papers. The Journal of Zoological and Botanical Gardens is the first international, peer-reviewed journal that provides an advanced forum for studies on both animals and plants kept in zoos, aquaria, and botanical gardens. It offers a unique opportunity to have the most updated research insights into each individual institution and discipline, but also a chance to treat common issues relating to their missions and aims, responding to the need of a multidisciplinary partnership approach.

Editor-in-Chief

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