



*animals*



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

## People and Pets: Factors Affecting the Acquisition, Characteristics and Relinquishment of Companion Animal Relationships

Guest Editors:

**Dr. Lindsay Murray**

School of Psychology, University  
of Chester, Parkgate Road,  
Chester CH1 4BJ, UK

**Dr. Janine Carroll**

School of Psychology, University  
of Chester, Parkgate Road,  
Chester CH1 4BJ, UK

Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**31 August 2024**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Pet ownership is the most common form of human–animal interaction, and is prevalent worldwide. In the UK, the RSPCA takes in thousands of pets each year and, of those adopted, up to 20% are returned to shelters, which can be stressful for both the animal and the owner. Reasons to return a pet include the owner's health and unrealistic expectations of ownership duties. Wider social environments may also influence the adoption and return of pets to animal shelters. For instance, during the Coronavirus pandemic, interest in pet ownership increased during lockdowns and was sustained for some once restrictions were lifted, but not for all types of pets. As our climate continues to change and the cost-of-living crisis escalates, the importance of research into crisis-driven changes in human–animal relationships increases. This Special Issue will give an overview of the most recent research in this area and provide an impetus to move the field on through an implementation of interventions to optimize compatibility and reduce negative outcomes for both people and pets.



[mdpi.com/si/180680](https://mdpi.com/si/180680)

# Special Issue



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

## Editor-in-Chief

### Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

1. Institute of Veterinary Medicine  
and Animal Sciences, Estonian  
University of Life Sciences,  
Kreutzwaldi 1, 51014 Tartu,  
Estonia  
2. Curtin University Sustainability  
Policy (CUSP) Institute, Kent St.,  
Bentley 6102, Australia

## 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: 3.0 (2022, ranks 12 /62 (Q1) in ‘Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science’; 13/143 (Q1) in ‘Veterinary Sciences’), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

## Author Benefits

**Open Access:** free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

**High Visibility:** indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, Embase, PubAg, AGRIS, Animal Science Database, CAB Abstracts, and other databases.

**Journal Rank:** JCR - Q1 (*Veterinary Sciences*) / CiteScore - Q1 (*General Veterinary*)

## Contact Us

*Animals* Editorial Office  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/animals](http://mdpi.com/journal/animals)  
[animals@mdpi.com](mailto:animals@mdpi.com)  
[X@Animals\\_MDPI](https://twitter.com/Animals_MDPI)