



## Welfare of Animals in Livestock Production Systems and at Slaughter

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### Message from the Collection Editor

The current legislation for animal welfare often defines only minimum requirements and does not yet prevent animal welfare-related problems from being widespread in all production stages. examples range from lameness in dairy cows to tail biting in fattening pigs and feather pecking in laying hens. As prophylaxis and to minimize these problems, interventions are carried out on animals associated with pain, such as dehorning calves, shortening the tail of piglets, and beak-trimming of chicks. Inappropriate treatment of animals at the slaughterhouse and insufficient assessment of adequate stunning at the slaughterhouse also impair the animals' well-being. Improvements have become part of retail communication, not least because consumers increasingly demand ethically correct livestock handling. To date, however, not all questions and relationships of the known problems and their occurrence have been conclusively clarified.

Topics on the development and evaluation of new housing systems, environmental enrichment, alternatives to zootechnical measures, humane handling and slaughter, and other research on the support of health and animal well-being are of particular interest.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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