



Minimal-Stress Handling for Welfare Improvement

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 December 2021)

Message from the Guest Editor

Most animals with which we have a close contact live in a captive state. Due to this, these animals have a very poor control of their environment and, experience distress. The interaction between animals and their human handlers/caregivers has a profound influence on the intensity of this distress and welfare.

A general audience would agree with welfare specialists on the fact that the conditions in which many captive farm and zoo animals live are less than ideal for their physical and mental health. This task may be, however, much more arduous when we want to discuss the welfare of companion animals like dogs, cats, and horses. People may in fact believe that animals that are given affection by humans have a good quality of life in general, but we know this is often not the case.

This Special Issue of *Animals* presents relevant and updated findings on the stress experienced by animals that are handled by humans. The reader will find information to help to understand what type of handling can cause distress to animals and what can be done to improve their welfare in different captive environments, including human households, laboratories, stables, and veterinary practices.





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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: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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