



## Feeding and Management Strategies for Improving Health, Welfare, Efficiency and Sustainability in Rabbit Production

Guest Editors:

**Dr. Marco Birolo**

Department of Agronomy, Food, Natural Resources, Animal and Environment (DAFNAE), University of Padova, Viale dell'Università 16, 35020 Legnaro, Padova, Italy

**Dr. Alice Cartoni Mancinelli**

Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Food Science, University of Perugia, Borgo XX Giugno, 74 06121 Perugia Italy

Deadline for manuscript submissions:

**closed (30 April 2024)**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Feeding and managing strategies play major roles in determining the health, welfare, and performance of farmed rabbits and thus the profitability of farmers. In growing rabbits, the main challenge is to find solutions which reduce the incidence of digestive diseases and the use of antimicrobials while maintaining highly productive performances and feed efficiency. On the other hand, the development of alternative rearing and housing systems is urgently required in view of the upcoming proposal of the European Commission for the gradual overcoming of cage farming systems.

The main purpose of the present Special Issue is to provide reliable information regarding feeding and managing strategies for: i) improving gut health and feed efficiency in growing fattening rabbits; ii) improving welfare of growing rabbits and rabbit does in alternative housing systems; iii) evaluating and reducing the environmental footprint (life cycle assessment approaches are welcome) of rabbit farms; iv) mitigating the impact of heat stress in rabbit production; and v) enhancing the meat quality traits.

Researchers are welcome to submit both original papers and reviews.





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, Grosspeteranlage 5  
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)