

## Special Issue

# The Behaviour, Needs and Welfare of Pinnipeds in Human Care

### Message from the Guest Editor

The reasons that pinnipeds may be kept in captivity include public display in zoos and aquaria, captive breeding for conservation purposes, scientific research, and temporary captivity for rehabilitation of stranded animals. Historically, poor understanding of the natural behaviours and habitats of pinniped species may have led to limited understanding by human carers of how captive pinnipeds' social and physical environment would affect their mental and physical state. Now, however, there is a growing plethora of literature on pinniped behaviour and ecology, which can inform the modern design of captive animals' social and physical environment in such a way as to allow the expression of the natural behaviour repertoire and full cognitive capacities and eliminate stereotypic behaviours. Deep sea environments and natural prey can seldom be simulated in captivity. However, most pinnipeds are highly social around their coastal (or ice) habitats, which may inform enclosure design and 3D aquatic space required for physical and mental health. Thus, studies are required to create an ethogram for each species and develop welfare assessment tools accordingly.

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### Guest Editor

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

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## Animals

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### Editor-in-Chief

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