

animal
An International Journal of Animal Bioscience

Publication Policies

Last updated June 2018

The publication policies of *animal* include the scope of the journal, the expected standards of published articles, the article types published by *animal*, the ethics policy, the evaluation procedures and peer-review criteria, the handling of misconducts as well as procedures for complaints and appeals.

For detailed guidance on the preparation of their manuscript and submission authors are invited to read Instructions for Authors at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/animal/information/instructions-contributors>.

History

animal is a central element in a collaboration between the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS), the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) and the European Federation for Animal Science (EAAP). It represents the merger in 2006 of three scientific journals: Animal Science; Animal Research; Reproduction, Nutrition, Development.

Scope

animal publishes the best, innovative and cutting-edge science that relates to animals (farmed or managed) used for animal production, and that is relevant to whole animal outcomes, and/or to animal management practices. Papers can be accepted from all species if they are in, or contribute knowledge to, animal production systems. *animal* is essential reading for all animal scientists, stakeholders and policy makers interested in agricultural, biomedical, veterinary and environmental sciences with expected impacts on Animal Production and Productivity, Animal Welfare, Animal Health, Food Security, Environment, Climate Change, Product Quality, Human Health and Nutrition, and Sustainability of Animal Agriculture and Livestock Systems. Impacts should be of international relevance.

animal aims to publish novel and original research papers, horizon-scanning reviews and critically informative opinion papers. Papers should consider animal responses, as well as lower or upper levels of understanding, with research spanning from genes to systems. Interactions between levels of approach are encouraged to account for the integrative nature of biological systems.

The journal is divided into a number of Sections

1 - Breeding and Genetics: considers research on genomics and genomic selection, breeding and breeding programs, and association between phenotypic and genetic variation in consideration of genomic and pedigree information.

2 - Nutrition: considers studies on all nutritional functions. It has two subsections, 2A - Monogastrics and 2B - Ruminants.

3 - Physiology and Functional Biology: considers studies on the biology of tissues and functions, including the physiological modes of action of growth, developmental, reproductive and productive processes in animals.

4 ó Welfare, Behaviour and Health Management: considers studies on behaviour, animal-health and welfare, with an emphasis on their interactions, as well as ethics of animal production and animal

research. This includes population medicine, preventive medicine and epidemiological approaches to animal health. It has two subsections, 4A - Welfare and Behaviour, and 4B - Health Management.

5- Livestock Farming Systems: considers all aspects of livestock farming systems and their sustainability (economic, social, environmental, and their interactions). It also includes precision livestock management and technologies. It has two subsections, 5A - Livestock Systems, 5B - Precision Livestock Farming.

6 - Quality of Animal Products: considers the quality and safety of animal products (whether food or non-food products), consumer acceptance and perception, as well as impacts of animal products on food security and human health.

Standards

The journal aims to publish research with the following characteristics

Across all sections, the journal encourages a variety of experimental or observational approaches, including any omics, monitoring, bioinformatics or modelling methodology, as long as conditions are well controlled without confounding effects. Submissions to disciplinary sections (**Breeding and Genetics, Nutrition, Physiology and Functional Biology**) are encouraged to offer hypothesis-driven research relying on reference methods for testing the critical hypothesis. Submissions to multi-disciplinary sections (**Welfare, Behaviour and Health Management, Livestock Farming Systems, Quality of Animal Products**) are encouraged to offer multicriteria, holistic, integrated, multi-level approaches (including economic, environmental and social issues), agroecological, or farm to fork approaches. These later submissions can include social/human elements of animal sciences provided there is a strong implication for livestock management practices and they are based on sound social science methodologies. The journal encourages research transparency and reproducibility. In particular, it encourages the detailed description of critical methodologies, including mathematical equations and statistical models in the Supplementary Materials. Authors are expected to support their findings with results from quality control tests for the critical methodologies.

The journal generally does not publish research with the following characteristics

Research directed to local conditions with no international relevance will be rejected. Purely descriptive or routine research lacking interpretation will also be rejected. Similarly research unrelated to whole animal outcomes or to management practices will be rejected. Lack of novelty or lack of state-of-the-art methods are discouraged. Clinical veterinary research or pharmaceutical studies investigating disease treatment do not fit in the scope. The same applies for biomedical studies and companion animal studies.

Article types

animal publishes different types of articles:

Research articles

Research articles correspond to a full account of a complete study. The approach can be experimental, data-driven (e.g. meta-analyses) or theoretical. Research articles should be comprehensive and should include an in-depth discussion. Linked papers are accepted if numbered in a series and submitted at the same time.

Short communications

Short communications present exceptionally promising early results, novel or timely contents. *animal* publishes a limited number of short communications. Their submission will be accepted based on Editorø judgement, and they will be peer-reviewed as research papers.

Review articles

Review articles have to be contemporary, comprehensive, and add information to published reviews on the same topic. Critical analyses of novel data and conceptual framework are encouraged providing new

insights. In this context it may be relevant to put forwards new theories and/or speculations, it may also include perspectives etc. However, the paper must contain more than these unsubstantiated elements i.e. the paper must be grounded in existing literature knowledge. Papers containing only meta-analyses are not considered as review articles. Authors of unsolicited review articles (i.e. those not produced in response to a specific invitation from *animal*) are encouraged to question the Editorial Office prior to submission through questions@animal-journal.eu to ask if their paper is within the scope and of interest to the journal. Authors are expected to provide an abstract and a rationale explaining the originality of the review as compared to other published reviews in the same subject area, and the new information the review offers beyond previous published results. The decision on whether an unsolicited review article will be considered for publication will be made by the Editor-in-Chief after consultation of the Editorial Board.

Invited Opinion papers

Opinion papers are invited by the Management Board of *animal* and are published as open access papers. They are short papers, which aim to inform scientists, industry, the public and policy makers about cutting-edge issues in research or the impact of research. The papers reflect the opinion of their authors who bear full responsibility of the published paper.

Conference/Symposium papers

Bundles of research papers or reviews presented in conjunction with specific conferences/symposia or projects can be considered for publication as a Special Topic or as a Supplement Issue in *animal*. Conference organisers who wish to publish bundles of papers from a symposium/conference in *animal* should first contact the Editor-in-Chief of *animal* (questions@animal-journal.eu) for agreement and information on the management of these papers. If the papers do not fit the conditions for publication in *animal*, the papers may be referred to *Advances in Animal Biosciences*, a companion publication of *animal* published by Cambridge University Press. The placing of such bundles in *animal* vs *Advances in Animal Biosciences* will depend on the relevance of the conference subject to the scope of *animal*.

Evaluation of the manuscript

New submissions are first viewed by the Editorial Office, the Editor-in-Chief and/or a member of the Editorial Board for compliance with scope, standards and presentation of the manuscript. If out of scope or standards, the manuscript will be rejected without review. If the preparation of the manuscript is detrimental to an efficient peer-review, the submission can be either returned to authors for reformatting in the style of *animal* pointing to customized items, and thereby providing a service to authors, or rejected.

Evaluation criteria for research articles and short communications are 1) scope, 2) standards, 3) originality, significant addition to existing knowledge, 4) significance of impacts, 5) soundness of research strategy, methods and data, 6) soundness of interpretation and conclusions, 7) quality of scientific writing, 8) quality of English, 9) quality of reporting, 10) quality of presentation, 11) adherence to ethics in publication, 12) discoverability.

Evaluation criteria for review articles are 1) significant addition to existing knowledge, 2) critical analysis and efficient synthesis of existing knowledge (using tables and figures whenever possible), 3) conceptual framework (including the development of concepts), 4) new insights (including a novel interpretation of data). Focus on a critical area, identification of knowledge gaps, inclusion of novel contribution beyond published one or beyond data included in public databases are also encouraged. Some degree of personal position on an issue is acceptable provided the position is well grounded in existing literature knowledge.

animal is operating under a single blind peer-review process. The journal is aiming at providing a decision to authors within 70 days after submission. It is the journal policy to limit the number of major revisions at only one per manuscript. In case a revised manuscript requires major revision again, the manuscript will be rejected and authors invited to re-submit. Any request from authors about their submission can be sent to the assigned editor via Editorial Manager or to the Editorial Office at editorialoffice@animal-journal.eu.

Reviewers are invited to submit their review to Publons for recognition of their work. If no invited reviewer consents to review a manuscript, the submission will be rejected.

Minor technical revision might be requested by Editorial Office prior to acceptance for technical details and discoverability issues (titles, abstract, keywords, implications).

Proofs

Authors should not insert new matter into proofs, correct faults in the style, or alter the arrangement of their papers at this stage. However, any errors of fact or of logic that have escaped earlier notice must be corrected at this stage. Substantial changes will be made at the author's expense. Authors are advised to pay particular attention to checking scientific and proper names, numerical data, formulae, tables and illustrations, and list of references. Whilst proof readers are competent in correcting proofs, the ultimate responsibility for the correction remains with the author. Indications on how to correct and return the proofs are supplied with the proof. **Proofs must be sent back to the Publisher within four working days of receipt.** If this period is exceeded, the pdf proof will be proofed by the Editorial Office without the author's corrections.

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Articles are not further processed until the completed form has been received by the Editorial Office. Signing the form does not put any limitation on the personal freedom of authors to use their own material contained in their article.

The authors must obtain a written permission to reproduce material that is owned by a third party (for example in review papers); they must also include the relevant credit in their paper. The written agreements have to be sent to the Editorial Office at submission of their manuscript.

Publication of the manuscript

A free PDF file will be emailed to the corresponding author. To facilitate earlier dissemination, articles are published online in *FirstView* with their doi number at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/animal> ahead of being published as part of an issue. It should be stressed that ***no change in the paper, even quite minor, is possible once the paper is in the FirstView list.*** If an error is identified at a later stage, authors are invited to contact editorialoffice@animal-journal.eu for the publication of an erratum or a corrigendum.

Falsification, Fabrication, Plagiarism, Authorship

Any concern of potential misconduct is taken seriously by *animal*, and will result in an investigation conducted under the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief according to COPE guidelines. Third parties may be involved in the investigation.

Revised submissions are automatically tested for similarities with published work. Random tests may also be made at first submission. Any unacceptable level of similarities with unreferenced use of other published text or ideas will result in the rejection of the submission. Parallel submission to different journals is unethical and will result in the rejection of the submission.

Concerns of falsification or fabrication of data, or of redundant publication will lead to rejection of the submission or retraction of the accepted article.

Authorship issues should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief via editorialoffice@animal-journal.eu.

In case of retraction, the accepted article is not modified and remains in the public domain, but is attached to a retraction notice, which details reasons of retraction. Any serious misconduct may result in sanctions.

Complaints and appeals

animal makes a distinction between complaints and appeals and has established procedures to handle them. Complaints may concern a request for further explanations on a decision or the decision terms. Complaints are addressed to the Editor via Editorial Manager, and the Editor will provide authors with the requested information. Formal appeals against a decision should be addressed by writing to the Editor-in-Chief through Editorial Office (editorialoffice@animal-journal.eu) providing detailed reasons for the appeal. The Editor-in-Chief will involve third parties from the Editorial Board or if necessary from the Management Board to examine the appeal. At the end of the appeal procedure, the decision made by the Editor-in-Chief is final.

animal Consortium

The *animal* Consortium has a companion journal to *animal*: *Advances in Animal Biosciences*.

Advances in Animal Biosciences aims to publish high-quality conference, symposium and workshop proceedings about animal-related aspects of the life sciences with emphasis on farmed and other managed animals. These can be in the form of a book of abstracts, summaries or complete papers. The format will highlight the title of the meeting and organisations involved but the publications will have the added advantage of forming a series under *Advances in Animal Biosciences*. Subject areas can include aspects of Breeding and Genetics, Nutrition, Physiology and Functional Biology of Systems, Behaviour, Health and Welfare, Livestock Farming Systems, Human Health and Product Quality. However, due to the integrative nature of biological systems, monographs and conference proceedings dealing with the translation of basic and strategic science into the whole animal and farming system and the impact on Productivity, Product Quality, Food Security, the Environment, Climate Change and Humans will be particularly welcome.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/advances-in-animal-biosciences>