

## **PUBLICATION POLICIES**

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For detailed guidance on the preparation of their manuscript and submission authors are invited to read Instructions for Authors at <https://animal-journal.eu/instructions-and-policies/>

### History

**animal** is a central element in a collaboration between the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS), the Institut National de la Recherche pour l’Agriculture, l’Alimentation et l’Environnement (INRAE) 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 - 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 Editor's 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](mailto: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.

### Opinion papers

Opinion papers 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. Authors of Opinion papers are encouraged to question the Editorial Office prior to submission through [questions@animal-journal.eu](mailto:questions@animal-journal.eu) to ask if their paper is of interest to the journal.

### 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](mailto: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*.

## Ethics

The Journal is committed to respect high standards of ethics in the editorial and reviewing process and adheres to the code of conduct for editors enacted by the Committee of Publication Ethics (<http://publicationethics.org/resources/code-conduct>).

The journal wishes to make sure that contributors respect these standards.

Any experimental work must have been conducted in accordance with relevant national legislation on the use of animals for research. For guidance authors should refer to “Ethical guidelines for research in animal science” by Jarvis, Day and Reed produced for the British Society for Animal Science: (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1752756200011571>).

## Authorship policy

Authorship should be based on the following principles, as outlined by the [ICMJE](#), and [COPE](#):

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Contribution of each author to the article should be described in the manuscript according to the [CRediT taxonomy](#).

The journal requires that all named authors declares authorship at submission. Each named author should recognize that 1) he/she fulfils the authorship criteria laid out in the journal’s authorship policy, 2) no other individuals deserving of authorship have been omitted, 3) his/her contributions to the research that is described in the ‘Authors contribution’ section of the manuscript using the CRediT taxonomy is correct, 4) no other individuals deserving of authorship have been omitted, 5) he/she adheres to the publication ethics of the journal and 6) he/she takes responsibility for the integrity of those contributions.

In the process of submitting the article through the [ANM Editorial Manager system](#), the corresponding author will enter all co-authors email addresses. Each co-author will be automatically notified via email when the manuscript is submitted. A hyperlink will appear in the email to verify that he/she is co-author and agrees to the authorship declaration. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to ensure that each co-author agrees to the authorship declaration.

People who have contributed to the article but do not meet the full criteria for authorship should be recognised in the acknowledgements section; their contribution can be described in terms of the [CRediT taxonomy](#).

Authorship issues should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief via [editorialoffice@animal-journal.eu](mailto:editorialoffice@animal-journal.eu). A formal letter should be submitted that includes the contribution of each co-author, the justification for the change, and a statement signed by each co-author indicating that they agree to the final list of authors. The term co-author is also refers to authors whose name has been added or deleted.

## Preprint policy

A ‘preprint’ is an early version of an article that has not been peer-reviewed, and to which no other value was added by the publisher

Articles submitted to *animal* should not be previously published, nor be under simultaneous review for publication, in part or in whole within a scientific journal, book or similar entity. However, deposition of a preprint on the author's personal website, in an institutional repository, or in a recognised preprint archive is not viewed as prior publication.

Authors should disclose details of preprint posting, including DOI or other persistent identifier, upon submission to a journal. Reference to the preprint should be made in the Acknowledgements section.

Animal is PCI Animal Science friendly (<https://bit.ly/3drYpNB>). It considers submissions recommended by Peer Community In Animal Science (<https://animsci.peercommunityin.org/>). At submission, authors should provide the link to the PCI recommendation and reviews. A lighter peer-review process will be applied at the editor's discretion.

Upon acceptance of an article for publication the author must be able to agree to the terms of the journal's License to Publish or Copyright Assignment form. Licenses applied to any preprint versions of the article will still govern the sharing and re-use of those earlier versions after publication of the Version of Record. It is the author's responsibility to ensure that the preprint record is later updated with a DOI and a URL link to the published version of the article (the 'Version of Record') if their article is accepted.

## Plagiarism, Falsification, Fabrication

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.

Plagiarism is defined as 'submitting as one's own work, irrespective of intent to deceive, that which derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others without due acknowledgement. It is a breach of academic integrity. *animal* adheres to the core principles of plagiarism as defined by the Committee on Publication Ethics.

Examples of plagiarism include copying (using another person's language and/or ideas as if they are one's own), by:

- quoting verbatim another person's work without due acknowledgement of the source;
- paraphrasing another person's work by changing some of the words, or the order of the words, without due acknowledgement of the source;
- using ideas taken from someone else without reference to the originator;
- cutting and pasting from the Internet to make a pastiche of online sources;
- submitting someone else's work as part of one's own without identifying clearly who did the work. For example, not attributing research contributed by others to a joint project.

Plagiarism might also arise from colluding with another person who has not been declared or acknowledged (i.e. where collaboration is concealed or has been forbidden). Work should include a general acknowledgement where it has received substantial help, for example with the language and style of a piece of written work.

Text-recycling, also known as self-plagiarism, is "when authors re-use their own previously written work or data in a 'new' written product without letting the reader know that his material has appeared elsewhere" (Roig, 2015; <https://ori.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/plagiarism.pdf>). *animal* publishes original research and does not accept text-recycling.

Manuscripts are automatically tested for similarities with published work at first submission. Any unacceptable level of similarities with unreferenced use of other published text or ideas or of text recycling 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.

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.

## Evaluation of the manuscript

Authors are invited to self-evaluate their manuscript before submission and check whether is in the scope and standards of the journal, and ready for peer-review using the submission checklist available at <https://animal-journal.eu/instructions-and-policies/>. This checklist is provided as a service to authors to help them prepare their 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](mailto: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).

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Research and review articles	EUR 1400
Short Communications, Opinion papers, Letters	EUR 840

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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.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## **Publication of the manuscript**

The corresponding author will be notified and receive a link to the published version of the open access article. This link is in the form of an article DOI link which can be shared via email and social networks.

## ***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.