

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/animal-open-space/instructions-and-policies>

History

animal – open space is a new publishing initiative of the *animal* Consortium, 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). *animal – open space* is part of a family of journals including the flagship journal *animal* and *animal – science proceedings*.

Scope

animal - open space has a wider scope than the flagship *animal*. The journal fully embraces Open Science and its philosophy is that all reproducible research, the data linked to that research and the associated points of views of the authors will contribute to knowledge gain. Therefore, this knowledge deserves to be rapidly published and open for comments once published. The journal publishes articles that relate to farmed or other managed animals, and leisure and companion animals and that is relevant to whole animal outcomes, and/or to animal management practices. Articles can be accepted from all species if they are in, or contribute knowledge to, the aforementioned categories (e.g. cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, horses, rabbits, fish, insects, cats, dogs). Note - lack of novelty, negative results or lack of significant treatment differences are not a barrier for publication. Articles presenting results using animals as model for human research are not included in the scope of *animal – open space*.

animal - open space is essential reading for all animal scientists, stakeholders and policy makers interested in agricultural, veterinary and environmental sciences with expected impacts on Animal Performance and Productivity, Animal Welfare, Animal Health, Food Security, Environment, Climate Change, Product Quality, Human Health and Nutrition, Sustainability of Animal Agriculture, Livestock Systems and Methodology. Impacts can be either of local or international relevance.

animal - open space aims to publish open and reproducible research as data papers, method articles and research articles. The articles are considered to 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 presentation of databases, methodologies and 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 presentation of databases, methodologies and studies on all nutritional functions. It has two subsections, 2A - Monogastrics and 2B - Ruminants.
- 3 **Physiology and Functional Biology:** considers presentation of databases, methodologies and 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 presentation of databases, methodologies and 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 presentation of databases, methodologies and research on all aspects of livestock farming systems and their sustainability (economic, social, environmental, and their interactions). It also includes precision livestock management and technologies for research on real-time monitoring technologies aimed at managing the temporal variability of individuals or of groups, when groups are the smallest manageable production unit. It has two subsections, 5A - Livestock Systems, 5B - Precision Livestock Farming.
- 6 **Quality of Animal Products:** considers presentation of databases, methodologies and research on 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.
- 7 **Insects as Livestock:** considers all aspects of insect production, including breeding and genetics, nutrition, physiology (biology of tissues, growth, development, reproduction, productive processes), behaviour and welfare (including ethics), health management (population medicine, preventive medicine, epidemiological approaches), production systems and their sustainability (economic, social, environmental and their interactions), and quality of

insect derived products (quality and safety, impacts of animal products on food security and human health).

Standards

The journal aims to publish transparent and reproducible presentations of databases, methodologies and research with the following characteristics:

Across all sections and for all article types, it is mandatory **1) to deposit the complete raw dataset** and the **metadata** describing them in an official data repository and **2) to provide a detailed description** of critical methodologies, including mathematical equations and statistical models including the programming codes, that ensures that the research process and products are transparent and can be reproduced (according to the Guidelines for Transparency and Openness Promotion¹). The journal encourages a variety of experimental or observational approaches, including any omics, monitoring, bioinformatics or modelling methodology, as long as conditions are precisely described. Submissions to disciplinary sections (*Breeding and Genetics, Nutrition, Physiology and Functional Biology*) are encouraged to offer hypothesis-driven research or data-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, Insects as Livestock*) 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 reproducible social science methodologies. Articles presenting studies using animals as model for human research are excluded from the scope.

Article types

animal – open space publishes the three types of articles:

DATA PAPERS

The data paper is a searchable metadata document, describing a dataset or a group of datasets and the circumstances of their collection, but without further analyses and interpretation of the data. Data paper provides a way for researchers to share and reuse each other's datasets by publishing datasets. Submissions that describe data from all research areas within the scope of *animal – open space* are welcome.

Almost any piece of information can be defined as data. However, to merit publication in *animal – open space* data should be a set of information that are acquired/collected with a scientific method and be accurate, reusable, reproducible, replicable, and of value to the research community. For more details see 'Data policy'.

METHOD ARTICLES

Reproducible experimental and laboratory methodologies are essential to science and *animal - open space* welcomes papers dedicated only to these aspects. This includes new research protocols and methods or changes to existing research protocols and methods. In most cases (but not mandatory), research protocols and methodology articles compare (at least) two methods: the proposed or alternative method and the currently used or "gold standard" method. The rapid development of non-invasive methods (e.g. based on sensors and cameras, in vitro systems) provides alternatives to more invasive research protocols and methods and these alternatives can be published in *animal – open space*. Method articles can also describe novel, improved or experimental extension and teaching methods in animal science used in either higher or continuing education. Papers should point out why the novel, improved or experimental methods were considered and provide a qualitative or quantitative assessment of the method.

¹ TOP guidelines; <https://osf.io/ud578/>.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Research articles correspond to all types of reproducible experimental research and include:

- “Confirmational” research which may not be novel *per se* but contributes to enlarging the knowledge that is essential to life sciences.
- Pilot studies and proof-of-concept research for which the statistical power may be not sufficient to make clear conclusions on the outcome.
- Applied animal research in which a management factor or solution is tested under field conditions.
- Observational data papers in which the results are based on observations made in field conditions, and not necessarily controlled conditions.
- Articles describing meta-analysis, modelling research or software tools are considered as research articles.
- Compared to data papers, authors of a research article need to express their opinion on their results.

Linked papers are accepted if numbered in a series and submitted at the same time.

Data policy

For all articles, open data is mandatory. Data should be published in an Open Access institutional or public data repository, *animal – open space* accepts any official data repository listed in the registry of research data repositories (<https://www.re3data.org/>). Based on the TOP guidelines, when some or all data or materials cannot be shared for legal or ethical reasons, authors must inform the editor at the time of submission. This will be taken into account during the editor review process. Editors may grant exceptions to data and material access requirements provided if the authors: 1) explain the restrictions on the dataset or materials and how they preclude public access; 2) provide a public description of the steps others should follow to request access to the data or materials; 3) provide software and other documentation that will precisely reproduce all published results and 4) provide access to all data and materials for which the constraints do not apply. The source data for research and method articles should be such that reader can reproduce the results reported in tables or figures. For example, if treatment means of a group of animals and a measure of variability are reported in the table of the article, the source data should report values measured in individual animals. This allows readers to re-use the data in a larger context (e.g. in meta-analysis) or with a different statistical model.

Authors are also required to provide the source code of the model that was used in the statistical analysis of the data in the data repository.

For modelling papers, the source code of the models should be deposited in any official repository listed in the registry of research data repositories (<https://www.re3data.org/>). To ensure that the source code can be used and understood in the future, it should be provided as an ASCII text-file originating or generated by the software tool that was used for the model development. A binary file can be supplied in addition to this. For sake of reproducibility, the code needs to be easily understandable meaning that authors provide explanatory comments if necessary. Papers describing software tools should make the tool available to the readers. It is recommended (but not mandatory) to publish the source code of software.

What data are suitable for animal – open space?

Almost any piece of information can be defined as data (e.g., numerical data, images, sounds, video recordings). However, to merit publication in *animal – open space* data should be a set of information that is acquired/collected with a scientific method. Your data must also be accurate, reusable, reproducible, replicable, and of value to the research community.

Please note that:

- *animal – open space* welcomes all data that have been produced by the authors at a recognised professional, research or academic institution.
- All data should have been acquired/collected using protocols or methods that adhere to strict ethical guidelines (as outlined in the Guide for Authors).
- Data should be owned by the authors or their institution.
- Secondary data² are allowed only under specific criteria as outlined in the next point:
 - Secondary data are within the scope for *animal – open space* if they are collected for meta-analysis, under the following conditions:
 - 1) it is done using variables that make the study unique.
 - 2) the authors provide the scientific protocol for collecting/creating the data.
 - 3) the collection of secondary data and/or analysis adds significant value to these data.
- Questionnaires/surveys are accepted in *animal – open space* when they are: direct, unambiguous, unbiased, the sampling is representative of the population and follows a transparent and reproducible scientific method.
- *animal – open space* requires an English language translation of any questionnaires/surveys that were not originally in English.
- Simulated data including the input dataset(s) accompanied with codes and tools used for the simulation(s) are welcome for publication in *animal – open space*.

IMPORTANT: It is mandatory that authors of *animal – open space* share their research data:

- If you have raw data (also referred to as primary, source or unprocessed data) relating to any charts, graphs or figures in the manuscript, these data must be hosted on a trusted data repository.
- If you are describing secondary data you are required to provide a list of the primary data sources used and to make the full secondary dataset publicly available, hosted on an accessible open data repository.

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](#).

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](#):

² Secondary data is the data that has already been collected through primary sources and made readily available for researchers to use for their own research. It is a type of data that has already been collected in the past.

- 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 declare 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) he/she adheres to the publication ethics of the journal and 5) he/she takes responsibility for the integrity of those contributions.

In the process of submitting the article through the animal – open space [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 .

Changes to authorship: Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors **before** submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only **before** the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor-in-Chief. Requests to change authorship should be made by the **corresponding author**, who must provide the reason for the change in author list with written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors, including any authors being added or removed, that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. For any request about a change in authorship, the **corresponding author** should contact the Editor-in-Chief through anopenspace@bsas.org.uk.

While the Editor-in-Chief considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

Preprint policy

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

Articles submitted to *animal - open space* 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 – open space 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.

Upon acceptance of an article for publication the author must be able to agree to the terms of the journal's License to Publish. 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 – open space* 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 – open space* 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 - open space* publishes unpublished data papers, method and research articles 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.

Peer review of the manuscript

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

animal – open space follows a **single-blind anonymized transparent peer review process**. New submissions are first viewed by the Editorial Office, the Editor-in-Chief and a member of the Editorial Board for compliance with scope, standards and presentation of the manuscript. The editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of manuscripts. The editor's decision is final. Editors are not involved in decisions about manuscripts which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission will be subject to all the normal procedures of the journal, with peer review carried out independently of the editor and their research groups. [More information on types of peer review](#).

If out of scope or standards, the manuscript will be rejected without review. If the preparation of the manuscript is detrimental to an efficient review by the Editorial Board, the submission will be returned to authors for reformatting in the style of *animal - open space*.

If new submissions are deemed suitable for peer-review, the manuscripts will be sent to a minimum of two reviewers for an independent expert assessment of the scientific quality. With the aim to be transparent and consistent, reviewers will receive a template for the review. The template will guide reviewers to focus their evaluation on criteria described below.

Evaluation criteria are:

- for **all articles**: 1) scope including open data, 2) standards, 3) quality of scientific writing, 4) quality of English, 5) quality of reporting, 6) adherence to ethics in research and in publication.
- for **data papers**, the quality of the manuscript (e.g., metadata, definition of abbreviations and symbols, context of prior research properly described [where applicable]), the quality, completeness and reusability of the dataset. The editorial board will not review the whole data set, which quality is under the responsibility of the authors.
- for **method articles**, the description of the protocol and new or adapted method in a way that allows the procedure to be reproducible. The assurance quality including the validation of the proposed protocol and method is under the responsibility of the authors.
- for **research articles**, this includes reviewing the scope, rationale, the statement of a hypothesis to be tested, description of the material and methods in a way that allows the experiment to be repeated, and the presentation of the results. The Author's point of views is reviewed for clarity, but the responsibility for content is left to the authors. To prevent misuse, the editors reserve the right to ask authors to make changes on this paragraph.

If the article is accepted, reviewers' comments and the author's responses will be published as supplementary material with the manuscript. The decision as to whether a submission is accepted for publication or rejected will be taken by the editors of *animal-open space*. The journal is aiming at providing a first decision to authors within 30 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 resubmit. Any request from authors about their submission can be sent to the assigned editor via Editorial Manager or to the Editorial Office at anopenspace@bsas.org.uk.

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

Article transfer service

The journal *animal – open science* is included in an Article Transfer Service from *animal*, offered by the *animal* Consortium. For an article submitted to *animal*, and if the Editor-in-Chief of *animal* feels that your article is more suitable to this journal, you may be asked to consider transferring your article to *animal – open space*. If you agree, a transfer to *animal - open space* will be offered; however, please note that some reformatting will be required before it can be reviewed in *animal - open space*. In particular, all submissions must include a 'Specification Table'. Detailed instructions on how to complete this can be found in the [Instructions for Authors](#). In addition, instead of a traditional Discussion section, *animal - open space* has a dedicated section titled "Author's Point of View". Instructions on how to

structure this section are also available in the [Instructions for Authors](#). Your article will be reviewed based on the evaluation criteria of *animal – open science* described in ‘Evaluation of manuscript’.

More information on the article transfer service at <https://www.elsevier.com/authors/submit-your-paper/submit-and-revise/articletransfer-service>

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- CC-BY-NC-ND: Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-NonDerivatives

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User rights

All articles published gold open access will be immediately and permanently free for everyone to read and download. Permitted third party reuse of open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user licence (<https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies/open-access-licenses>).

Gold Open Access Publication Fee

To provide gold open access, this journal has a publication fee which needs to be met by the authors or their research funders for each article published open access. The gold open access publication fee for this journal is EUR 700 for Data papers and Method articles, EUR 1400 for Research articles.

- Data papers and Method articles FREE for articles submitted by 30 June 2025
- Research articles FREE for articles submitted by 30 June 2025

Funding Body Agreements

Elsevier has established agreements with funding bodies, including Wellcome Trust and Research Councils UK. This ensures that funded research is published open access, immediately and freely available throughout the world. If your organization or country has agreements with Elsevier to cover all or part of APC, this will be automatically detected when you, the corresponding author, declare the name of your organisation on the Elsevier platform. To find out more information about funding body and institutional agreements and waivers, please go to <https://www.elsevier.com/authors/open-access/choice> and <https://www.elsevier.com/open-access/agreements>.

BSAS and EAAP members

The British Society of Animal Science (BSAS) and the European Federation for Animal Science (EAAP) offer their members a 20% discount off the APC when they are corresponding authors. After your article is accepted, the corresponding author receives a Rights and Access form link, he/she should enter his/her membership details and wait for BSAS/EAAP to validate the membership eligibility before finalising the Rights and Access Form.

Should you wish to register for membership, visit <https://my.bsas.org.uk/> or <https://members.eaap.org/apply>.

Research4Life

The Publisher participates in [Research4Life](#), a global program with a goal to foster a strong and independent research community in the developing world and reduce the knowledge gap between developing and industrialized countries. Authors conducting research in the Research4Life developing countries participating in the Program can apply for a waiver of the Open Access Fee pursuant to this

program (the “Research4Life Waivers”) against any type of Open Access Articles. A 100% waiver is granted to papers where all authors are based in Research4Life '[Group A](#)' countries and a 50% discount to those who are all based in '[Group B](#)' countries. There is a 50% discount to a mix of authors from 'Group A and Group B'.

animal - open space can offer a limited number of waivers. If an author group from a non-Research4life and low-income country cannot afford the APC to publish an article in *animal - open space* and they can demonstrate they have had no research funding, we will consider individual waiver requests on a case-by-case basis. Contact editorialoffice@animal-journal.eu to receive the application form.

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 - open space 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 (anopenspace@bsas.org.uk) 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 proofreaders 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.

Family of journals from the animal Consortium

The *animal* Consortium has two additional journals, its flagship [animal](#) and [animal – science proceedings](#) (formerly Advances in Animal Biosciences).

animal

[animal](#) publishes the best, innovative and cutting-edge science that relates to farmed or managed animals, 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, farmed and managed animal systems (e.g., cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, horses, rabbits, fish, insects). *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 Performance 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. The journal 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.

animal – science proceedings

[animal – science proceedings](#) publish high-quality conference, symposium and workshop proceedings on aspects of the life sciences with emphasis on farmed, other managed animals, leisure and companion animals and the use of insects for animal feed and human food. These can be in the form of abstracts or one to two-page summaries or short papers. The format will highlight the title of the meeting and organisations involved but the publications will have the added advantage of being gold open access and forming a series under *animal – science proceedings*. This gives conferences wide exposure and the additional benefit that individual abstracts can be identified and indexes through a DOI. The conferences can be international or regional/national and publication in local languages is encouraged for local /regional conferences provided titles are also in English. Subject areas can include aspects of Breeding and Genetics, Nutrition, Physiology and Functional Biology of Systems, Behaviour, Health and Welfare, Livestock Farming Systems and Product Quality. Due to the integrative nature of biological systems, animal – science proceedings will welcome contributions on the translation of basic and strategic science into whole animal and whole system Productivity, on Product Quality and the relationship between products and human health, Food Security, the Environment including ecosystem services and agroecology, and Climate Change. Proceedings can involve research, extension studies, training and education as well as policy development.

Key characteristics of the 3 journals of the animal consortium

Characteristics	<i>animal</i>	<i>animal - science proceedings</i>	<i>animal – open space</i>
Scope	• Farmed or managed animals • Research relevant to whole animal outcomes, and/or to animal management practices • International relevance	• Farmed or managed animals, leisure and companion animals • Local or international relevance	• Farmed or managed animals, leisure and companion animals • Research relevant to whole animal outcomes, and/or to animal management practices • Local or international relevance
Approaches	• Research	• Research, extension studies, training and education as well as policy development	• Research, extension studies, training and education
Types of articles	• Research article • Review article • Short communication • Opinion paper • Conference / Symposium / Project (full) papers • Letter to the editor	• Conference and symposium proceedings (short papers and/or abstracts)	• Data paper • Method article • Research article
Language	English	Any (with titles also in English)	English
Transparency and reproducibility	Encouraged		Mandatory
Open Data	Recommended	Not applicable	Mandatory
Review	Editorial team and external reviewers	Conference organizers	Editorial team and external reviewers
First decision	< 70 days	14 days	30 days
Focus of the review	Scope, standards, originality & significant addition to existing knowledge, impacts, soundness of research, soundness of interpretation, clarity of writing, quality of English, reproducibility & quality of the reporting, ethics	Clarity of writing, ethics	Scope, transparency, reproducibility, clarity of writing, ethics, quality of the (meta)data
Reviewed sections	Full manuscript including supplementary materials	Abstracts and (short) papers when relevant	Material and methods, results, data and metadata. Introduction and discussion/points of view of the authors are reviewed for clarity but the responsibility of the contents is left to the authors.

