

Call for Papers

Editor-in-Chief

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Submission Deadline: 31 January 2027

Publication Dates: Articles will be published
on a rolling basis starting January 2027.

1st Editorial Decision: 6–8 weeks

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Special Issue

Shifting the Paradigm: Towards a Positive Psychology of Equine Welfare (PPEW)

About Special Issue

This Special Issue reframes equine welfare by moving beyond negative states toward positive psychology. By validating positive welfare indicators, it provides practical tools to reduce industry defensiveness, encourage collaborative dialogue, and promote a genuinely good life where horses can thrive.

Aims

This Special Issue seeks to catalyze a paradigm shift in equine welfare research and practice by foregrounding positive psychology and strengths-based (positive intervention) approaches.

Potential Topics

- Develop and validate indicators of positive affective states in horses, including behavioral, physiological, and cognitive markers of contentment, engagement, pleasure, and positive anticipation.
- Apply continuum-based welfare assessment frameworks that contextualize transient negative states within broader evaluations of overall welfare, quality of life, and the balance of positive and negative experiences across time.
- Draw parallels with human sport, health, and wellbeing paradigms, exploring how models of positive psychology, resilience, and empowerment might be translated to equine contexts.
- Examine the competitive horse as an athlete, investigating how welfare frameworks can accommodate the physiological and psychological demands of training and competition while maintaining ethical standards.

Special Issue Editorial Board

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