



*animals*



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

## Surgical Castration of Piglets and Its Alternatives: National Strategies, Consequences for Animal Welfare, Production Systems and Product Quality

Guest Editors:

**Prof. Dr. Ulrike Weiler**  
(Deceased, \* 13 November 1956; † 26 July 2020)

**Dr. Maria Font-i-Furnols**

**Prof. Dr. Igor Tomasevic**

**Dr. Michel Bonneau**

Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:  
**closed (31 December 2020)**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Surgical castration of male piglets has been a traditional measure to avoid boar taint, the sex-specific off odor of pork, and to reduce problems due to male-specific behavior. As this surgery has been carried out mainly without anesthesia or pain relief, this practice has faced increasing criticism. These societal concerns about animal welfare and the improved growth performance of entire males have triggered discussions around omitting surgical castration or switching to alternative methods of castration. Different national strategies have been established in the pork chain or are being discussed for the future. These discussions have already influenced legislation, so that in some countries, traditional surgical castration is already not legal anymore, and alternatives predominate. The aim of this Special Issue is to give an overview of the different situations (production system, strategies, consumer attitudes) all over the world and to summarize the scientific state of the art of alternatives to traditional surgical castration without anesthesia and their consequences for the pork chain, from production and product quality to consumer acceptance.



[mdpi.com/si/40120](https://mdpi.com/si/40120)

# Special Issue



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

## Editor-in-Chief

### Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

1. Institute of Veterinary Medicine  
and Animal Sciences, Estonian  
University of Life Sciences,  
Kreutzwaldi 1, 51014 Tartu,  
Estonia  
2. Curtin University Sustainability  
Policy (CUSP) Institute, Kent St.,  
Bentley 6102, Australia

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Animals* is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 3.0 (2022, ranks 12 /62 (Q1) in ‘Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science’; 13/143 (Q1) in ‘Veterinary Sciences’), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

## Author Benefits

**Open Access:** free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

**High Visibility:** indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, Embase, PubAg, AGRIS, Animal Science Database, CAB Abstracts, and other databases.

**Journal Rank:** JCR - Q1 (*Veterinary Sciences*) / CiteScore - Q1 (*General Veterinary*)

## Contact Us

*Animals* Editorial Office  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/animals](http://mdpi.com/journal/animals)  
[animals@mdpi.com](mailto:animals@mdpi.com)  
[X@Animals\\_MDPI](https://twitter.com/Animals_MDPI)