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JOURNAL OF APPLIED ANIMAL
ETHICS RESEARCH 2 (2020) 1–2

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APPLIED
ANIMAL ETHICS
RESEARCH

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Editorial

The first issue of the *Journal of Applied Animal Ethics Research* for 2020 is a continuation of the second one published in 2019, concerning companion animals, and specifically discusses the topic of pet overpopulation. Two new features are included here for the first time, giving the general outline that future JAAER issues will have:

- the thematic section is divided into two subsections (i.e., “Standard” and “Perspective” papers); and
- a general non-thematic section, “Studies”, is placed at the end of the issue. “Studies”, the general non-thematic section, as usual welcomes contributions that fall within the scope of the journal, but concerning topics other than the subject of the thematic section.

The subsection “Perspectives”, on the other hand, identifies one of the main aims of JAAER, since it gives voice to people who work directly with animals and encounter ethically relevant difficulties in their daily work. As stated in the Aims and Scope, JAAER seeks to give particular emphasis on research that explores the practical ethical issues intrinsic to animal welfare in different fields: the Perspectives section aims to gather the invaluable practical experience of people working directly ‘in the field’ to underline the practical dimension of the ethical issues investigated in the ‘Standard’ section.

In general, JAAER seeks to bring the debate on the ethical issues concerning animal welfare beyond the boundaries of academic and scientific debate, to a wider audience of professionals and non-professionals working directly with animals. The aim is to explore the applied ethical issues that arise at the crossover between theoretical research and the practical experience of this wider audience. The Perspective subsection collects contributions specifically focused on the practical experience arising in the various fields explored by each issue.

Contributions hosted in this subsection are subject to double peer review like all contributions accepted in the journal, but criteria by which they are selected are different. Their aim is not to present data, research or thesis, but to offer the professional point of view of experts in the field, and their scope is more narrative, ‘story telling’. The focus is to report ethically relevant professional experiences and to give evidence of particular situations in which relevant ethical issues emerge.

JAAER's mission is to foster the growth of ethical awareness and know-how in the field of animal welfare and care and to discuss moral issues related to the human-animal relationship: we hope the Perspectives section will be a fruitful contribution to it.

Bernard Rollin & Barbara de Mori