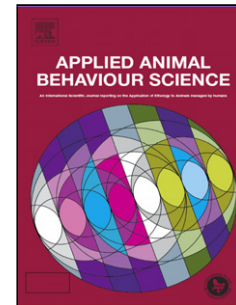


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**Social bonds in a flock bird. Species differences and seasonality in social structure in captive flamingo flocks over a 12-month period.**

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**Highlights**

- Flamingos form stable social bonds between individuals in captive flocks.
- Social bonds can persist across season, both in and out of courtship and breeding times.
- Flamingo flocks will contain a mixture of intra- and intersexual bonds.
- Social network analysis can identify changes to flock social structure that may help infer welfare experience.

**ABSTRACT**

*Social network analysis (SNA) is a popular tool for investigating key components of sociality in free-living populations, and is growing in its application to captive animal systems. For social species held in captivity, welfare may be improved if protocols for care take key aspects of sociality into account.*

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