

First husbandry practices in the Mediterranean area

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The study of animal husbandry practices can be carried out from very different methodological approaches. Their integration can help to advance our knowledge of the modes of management of domestic herds in the earliest farming societies.

Husbandry practices are articulated around two fundamental aspects: livestock management, and exploitation of animal products. Livestock management involves human control over feeding, reproduction, and mobility of domestic animals. An integrated approach to study these aspects is fundamental to characterize the different modes and strategies of livestock management. In turn, husbandry and animal farming are related to the management of the first domestic herds and the selective pressures exerted on them. Therefore, it is essential to investigate selective pressures in the context of livestock management and animal products' exploitation via multidisciplinary approaches to infer the different modalities and strategies that may have taken place.

This session aims to focus on recent studies on the first livestock practices in the Mediterranean area, centering around the different modes of herd management that were carried out in different regions of this geographical area.