



Considering Animals: Contemporary Studies in Human–Animal Relations

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Considering Animals draws on the expertise of scholars trained in the biological sciences, humanities, and social sciences to investigate the complex and contradictory relationships humans have with nonhuman animals. Taking their cue from the specific 'animal moments' that punctuate these interactions, the essays engage with contemporary issues and debates central to human-animal studies: the representation of animals, the practical and ethical issues inseparable from human interactions with other species, and, perhaps most challengingly, the compelling evidence that animals are themselves considering beings. Case studies focus on issues such as animal emotion and human 'sentimentality'; the representation of animals in contemporary art and in recent films such as *March of the Penguins*, *Happy Feet*, and *Grizzly Man*; animals' experiences in catastrophic events such as Hurricane Katrina and the SARS outbreak; and the danger of overvaluing the role humans play in the earth's ecosystems. From Marc Bekoff's moving preface through to the last essay, *Considering Animals* foregrounds the frequent, sometimes uncanny, exchanges with other species that disturb our self-contained existences and bring into focus our troubled relationships with them. Written in an accessible and jargon-free style, this collection demonstrates that, in the face of species extinction and environmental destruction, the roles and fates of animals are too important to be left to any one academic discipline.

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Considering Animals: Contemporary Studies in Human–Animal Relations From Routledge Bibliography

- Rank: #4358851 in Books
- Published on: 2011-06-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .63" w x 6.14" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 252 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

Prize: A Yankee Book Peddler UK Core Title for 2011 Examining a remarkable range of human-animal relations - from extinctions and historical dolphin encounters to suburban wildlife control, marching penguins, devouring grizzlies, pests, plagues, and pets - the authors in this collection ask us to (re)consider what we think we know about animals, what we do based on that knowledge, and what, finally, animals think of us. This collection provides compelling evidence of the vitality and urgency of the field, while it forces us to ask neglected questions about our disciplines and practices'. Nigel Rothfels, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA and author of *Savages and Beasts: The Birth of the Modern Zoo* 'Considering Animals lines up fresh and passionate writing from prominent scientists, social scientists and humanities scholars exploring our historical and contemporary relationships with other animals. Sharp, provocative and insightful, this energetic volume is essential reading for those new to and established in the field of Human-Animal Studies'. Annie Potts, New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies at the University of Canterbury, and co-author of *Kararehe: Animals in New Zealand Art, Writing and Everyday Life* 'The inclusion of work from scholars across a wide range of fields, including art and art history, law, social anthropology, literature, and biology, is a clear strength of the book... Recommended.' Choice 'The book's value lies in suggesting new avenues of thought and pointing to the range, in disciplines and approaches, of contemporary studies. Anyone interested in animals and humans should find something to interest or provoke them.' Environmental History 'On the whole, the essay collection provides a wide-ranging and truly interdisciplinary invitation to consider (nonhuman) animals not as objects, but as subjects with desires, emotions and agency. Particularly those essays that discuss artwork are amply illustrated and an index keeps the material accessible.' Archiv fur das Studium der neueren Sprachen und Literaturen

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