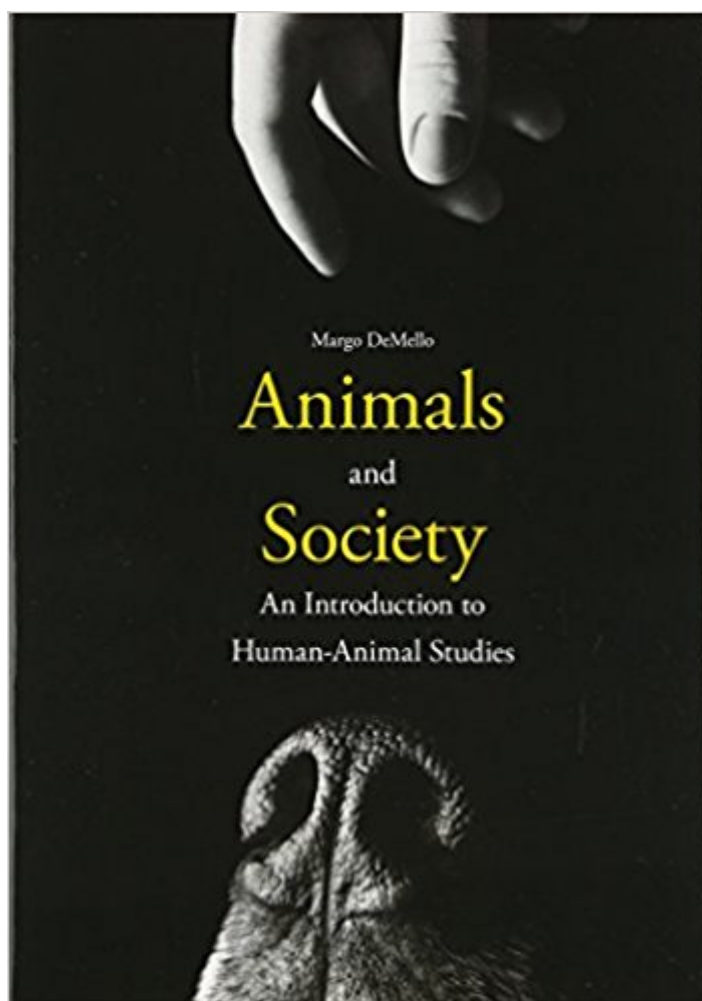




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# Animals And Society: An Introduction To Human-Animal Studies



## Synopsis

Considering that much of human society is structured through its interaction with non-human animals, and since human society relies heavily on the exploitation of animals to serve human needs, human-animal studies has become a rapidly expanding field of research, featuring a number of distinct positions, perspectives, and theories that require nuanced explanation and contextualization. The first book to provide a full overview of human-animal studies, this volume focuses on the conceptual construction of animals in American culture and the way in which it reinforces and perpetuates hierarchical human relationships rooted in racism, sexism, and class privilege. Margo DeMello considers interactions between humans and animals within the family, the law, the religious and political system, and other major social institutions, and she unpacks the different identities humans fashion for themselves and for others through animals. Essays also cover speciesism and evolutionary continuities; the role and preservation of animals in the wild; the debate over zoos and the use of animals in sports; domestication; agricultural practices such as factory farming; vivisection; animal cruelty; animal activism; the representation of animals in literature and film; and animal ethics. Sidebars highlight contemporary controversies and issues, with recommendations for additional reading, educational films, and related websites. DeMello concludes with an analysis of major philosophical positions on human social policy and the future of human-animal relations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As one of the founders of this field and someone who has helped guide its development, DeMello is

uniquely situated to write this book. She does an admirable job detailing the history of humanâ “animal studies, its intricate relations to other fields, and its multi/interdisciplinarity. The right book at the right time. (Claire Jean Kim, University of California, Irvine)A 'must' book to own and read. Each chapter is filled with insights extending our understanding of the role and meaning of non-human animals in the modern age. *Animals and Society* is an essential addition to our bookshelves, required readings, citations lists, and textbook adoptions. (Arnold Arluke, Northeastern University)The first published text in humanâ “animal studies, this volume undoubtedly sets the standard. Comprehensive in scope, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary in approach, painstakingly researched and wonderfully written, it should be the choice for human-animal studies courses in a variety of disciplines. A most impressive accomplishment. (Clifton P. Flynn, University of South Carolina Upstate)A valuable resource.... Recommended. (Choice)*Animals and Society* is a substantial encyclopedic resource for understanding the nature of our interactions involving animals. (D. Wayne Dworsky San Francisco Book Review)DeMello's book surpasses the typical textbook in offering a well-written overview of the field, with historical and cultural coverage of the changing categorizations of animals, the social construction of animals, the various human use of animals, attitudes toward animals, and symbolic manifestations of animals. (Zeteo)A well-considered and artfully structured work that provokes thoughtful reflection and stimulates ideas for both theoretical and applied study; it is a worthwhile addition to my library. (Anne McBride PsycCritiques)Organizing a new, interdisciplinary field is no easy task, and overall DeMello has done a very fine job. (Humanimalia: A Journal of Human/Animal Interface Studies)

Margo DeMello teaches anthropology and sociology at Central New Mexico Community College. Her books include *Speaking for Animals: Animal Autobiographical Writing*; *Teaching the Animal: Human-Animal Studies Across the Disciplines*; *Stories Rabbits Tell: A Natural and Cultural History of a Misunderstood Creature*; and *Why Animals Matter: The Case for Animal Protection*.

I'm currently using this book as part of a Humans and Animals studies course. The information is all very interesting and the book flows with easy understanding. The only thing I have noticed is that it becomes a bible for animal activism. As a Biological Anthropology major, the bias in this book is slightly alarming but once you get through the authors opinions the information given is definitely worth reading.

I've purchased this book because I am a lecturer and researcher in the field of animal ethics.

Although I have read 3 chapters, I consider this book a very good introduction for an entirely new field: anthrozoology. In the introduction the author launches very tempting research questions that are useful to unveil core questions about the way we understand our relationships with nonhuman animals. I would recommend this work for those interested in the field of human animal studies.

Required to read this book for my advanced Human and Animals in Human Services course. Great read, clearly and thoroughly explained humans and their relation to animals, from A to Z. Must read for anyone interested in the animal-human relationship!

I needed this book for a college course but I have to say the book is well written and informative. Definitely a read for those concerned with animals rights or just curious as to all aspects of animal treatment.

Excellent overview

Great sale

Animals have been with us since the dawn of man. How have our relationships changed? The broadest categories include domesticated and wild animals. Animal domestication stretches back thousands of years. The author places the domestication of dogs back as far as 30,000 utilizing various kinds of evidence including DNA from gravesites. Among these, two subcategories arise: pets and livestock. Still other categories include performing animals, working animals and wild animal management. Margo DeMello has immersed herself in the most intensive and complete study and documentation of animals and how humans relate to them ever assembled. While she admits that the work is a textbook, it appears to me more like a handbook. Margo DeMello has amassed a large body of publications, making her a big authority on animals. Her credentials and exposure have heralded her to the top rung on the subject of animal study. The present work primarily represents the acute connection human beings share with their animal counterparts. Indeed, the work is comprehensive, broken into five parts and then 20 chapters, each with several subcategories. It's not an afternoon read. Instead, DeMello builds on the many factors and bonds animals and society, providing a provocative insight into the larger scheme of things. She uncovers the domain of animal rights, anthrozoology, ethology and human-animal studies. She does this with animal institutions, animal studies and numerous case studies. Chronicling our

interdependence on working animals, she examines the unique relationships in which certain relationships are forged. Of the more intriguing inquiries is our attempts to define and try to understand the nature of animal communications and behavior as well as human-animal communications. She enjoys a unique perspective that taps the energy and enthusiasm of those involved with any aspect of the human-animal relation. With a powerful repertoire of suggested films, websites and an extensive, 35-page bibliography, the author confirms her commitment to addressing the needs of any study or inquiry. Finally, she addresses the consumption of meat and considers its societal implications. *Animals and Society* is a substantial encyclopedic resource for understanding the nature of our interactions involving animals. While Margo DeMello's credentials assist in her exposure and professorial work, the vast amount of publications she has amassed make her an expert and a unique authority in her field. The reader will find her latest work an enlightening read.

I am reading this for an Animal and Society class and I do find the book to be very informative and easy to understand. However, I would say it is one sided on the issues the book address and often only talks about the negative sides of things going on. If the book was less subjective it would get 5 stars

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