

## TOPICS

1. The Human-Animal Bond
2. Zoos & Wild Animals in Captivity
3. Animals in Sport & Entertainment
4. Controversial Human-Animal Interactions

## THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND

### LECTURE 1 – HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND IN HISTORY

#### Key Points of Lecture

1. Animals have had a profound influence on human societies, playing a major role in the course of human history
2. Animals have influenced the historical development of societies
  - a. The actual characteristics of animals affected how they did this
3. Religion and philosophy have had a major influence on our attitudes towards animals

#### History of the Human Bond

- 2 million years ago approximately, human primates started using tools and weapons
- The oldest spears are estimated to be 400,000 years old, found in a cave in Germany
  - We also found the remains of 10+ butchered horses
- Bones from elephants, rhinos and deer were found in the same cave complex
- The oldest known cave painting/drawing of an animal is at least 35,000 years old and was found in the caves of Indonesia

#### Beginning of 'Animal Connection'

- Generally predators live at lower population densities than herbivores
- The increase in humans hunting with tools lead to a dramatic increase in geographic distribution
  - This is shown by fossil records
- There was an increased focus on prey behaviour to obtain more food and an increased focus on predator behaviour to minimise interference competition
- This is considered the beginning of the animal connection – Shipman (2010)

#### Prehistoric Art

- Depicts medium to large animals, generally
- Paintings cost time, energy and resources – so why make them?
- Some paintings indicate good understanding of different aspects of behaviour
- The paintings show evidence of an increasing value of connection with animals

*Did the animal connection drive the development of figurative art and language?* – Shipman (2010)

**Animism:** belief that everything has a soul or spirit including animals, plants, rocks, mountains, rivers and stars

- Animists believe each anima is a powerful spirit that can help or hurt them
  - They are to be worshipped, fears or in some way attended to
  - Eg. Sacrifice or offerings
- Some wild animals may have been worshipped as Gods by early humans

### Domestication

- Domestication: the process of hereditary re-organisation of wild animals and plants into domestic and cultivated forms according to the interests of people
- Between 13,000 and 2,500 BC → humans domesticated dogs, cats and large animals (cattle, goats, horses and sheep)
- Domestication was one of the most important processes in human history
- **Domestication of animals** and the **rise of human civilisation** happened at the same time and are unmistakably linked
- **A secure food supply** and the end of a **nomadic lifestyle** allowed humans to build infrastructure and allow time for innovation and cultivation of arts

### Characteristics of Successful Domestication

- A diet that is easily supplied by humans
- Relatively fast growing with short intervals between birth
- Ability to breed in captivity
- A tendency for calm, predictable behaviour
- Lack of vicious behaviour
- A social structure based on hierarchy and cooperative group living

### Domestication of Dogs & Cats

- Dogs were domesticated from their wolf-like ancestor **Canis Lupus** around 18,000-12,000 BC
  - May have started as early as 38,000 BC
- Dogs assisted with hunting and guarding while sharing in food that was hunted
- Cats were domesticated around 4000 BC from **Felis Silvestris Libyca** in Egypt
- Domestication of cats was strongly associated with permanent agricultural settlements and growing/storage of grain

### Domestication of Livestock

- As agricultural societies became more common → pigs, cows, sheep, goats and horses were domesticated between 9000 and 5000 BC
  - Evidence for this: excavated archaeological sites
  - Other domesticated animals: chickens, camels, turkeys, ducks, llamas, guinea pigs and alpacas
- Bones of mostly **large, adult male** animals are associated with **hunting**
- Bones from **smaller, younger and largely female** animals are associated with **agriculture**
- Dogs played an important role in herding and controlling domesticated livestock and guarding them from predators
- No other animal species has been domesticated since 2500 BC
- There have been several failures of domestication
  - Zebras, elephants, deer