

Social Creatures: A Human and Animal Studies Reader

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SOCIAL CREATURES

A Human and Animal Studies Reader

CLIFTON P. FLYNN, EDITOR



Featuring:

Carol Adams
Clifton Bryant
Josephine Donovan
Andrew Linzey

Barbara Noske
Tom Regan
Harriet Ritvo
Andrew Rowan

Kenneth Shapiro
Peter Singer
Marjorie Spiegel
Michael Tobias

...and many more.

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From Lantern Books : Social Creatures: A Human and Animal Studies Reader before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Social Creatures: A Human and Animal Studies Reader:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book! By Franz Essential reader for Human-Animal studies and for anyone concerned with society's treatment of animals and the way human animals and nonhuman animals

interact. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Anthrozoology, A to Z By Kelly Garbato

In *SOCIAL CREATURES: A HUMAN AND ANIMAL STUDIES READER*, editor Clifton P. Flynn has assembled a diverse selection of writing and research on the topic of Human-Animal Studies (HAS). HAS (also called anthrozoology) is, quite simply, the study of human-animal interactions. Because of its multidisciplinary approach, HAS is a vast and varied field; human-animal interactions can be examined through a multitude of lenses, including psychology, sociology, ethology, anthropology, zoology, veterinary medicine, health science, history, philosophy, women's studies and ethnic studies. Consequently, scholarship in this field represents a motley body of work. *SOCIAL CREATURES* both reflects and embraces the heterogeneity of Human-Animal Studies. The thirty-one pieces in this hefty volume are grouped into nine topics or subsections (see below for a full list). A number of subjects are touched upon, including the human-animal bond; religious perspectives on animal rights; animal rights philosophy; the effects of gender on attitudes towards animal rights and participation in animal rights activism; correlations between support for animal rights and other social causes; grief in companion animal caretakers and shelter workers; and links between cruelty to animals and interpersonal violence, including child and partner abuse, to name but a few. Given the broad scope of Human-Animal Studies, Flynn does an excellent job of representing the major areas of research in the field. Culled from an assortment of books and academic journals, Flynn includes some seminal works in the field. Chapters from Carol Adams's *THE SEXUAL POLITICS OF MEAT* and Marjorie Spiegel's *THE DREADED COMPARISON* come to mind; Adams and Spiegel vividly demonstrate the intersectionality of oppressions, be it animals/women or animals/people of color, respectively. While I read these chapters in their original context some time ago, I highly enjoyed re-reading them as part of an anthrozoology anthology, placed alongside similar essays. Speaking of intersecting or parallel oppressions, I'm pleased to see that *SOCIAL CREATURES* does not shy away from examining how various "isms" intertwine with and feed upon one another. The anthology includes an entire grouping devoted to the subject ("Inequality - Interconnected Oppressions"); in addition to Adams's and Spiegel's pieces, this section includes an essay by David Nibert, originally published in the *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY* entitled "Humans and Other Animals: Sociology's Moral and Intellectual Challenge." Happily, the subject of intersecting oppressions is not limited to an isolated subsection; essays which examine the intersection of animal advocacy, race, ethnicity and gender can be found throughout the book, and the concluding section on animal rights philosophy includes a wonderful re-examination of Singer and Regan's animal rights philosophies by (eco)feminist Josephine Donovan ("Animal Rights and Feminist Theory"). As all but one of the pieces in *SOCIAL CREATURES* have previously appeared elsewhere, students and newcomers to the field will probably benefit most from this reader. As an animal rights advocate, former psychology student and layperson interested in the field, I highly enjoyed the selections chosen for inclusion by Flynn. The table of contents reads like a "who's who" in the field, and serves as an effective starting point for those who are curious about Human-Animal Studies. Many of the contributors have authored books (or edited anthologies) themselves. *SOCIAL CREATURES* also features a 34-page reference list, an invaluable resource for those who'd like to use the book as a jumping-off point for further research.

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Other-than-human animals are an overwhelming presence in our collective and individual lives and, at the same time, are taken for granted by human animals. Scholars have neglected the study of human-animal interaction and the role of animals in society. This is true, despite the fact that animals are an integral part of our lives: in our language, food, families, economy, education, science, and recreation. In more than thirty essays, *Social Creatures* examines the role of animals in human society. Collected from a wide range of periodicals and books, these important works of scholarship examine such issues as how animal shelter workers view the pets in their care, why some people hoard animals, animals and women who experience domestic abuse, philosophical and feminist analyses of our moral obligations toward animals, and many other topics. *Social Creatures* includes work by Peter Singer, Tom Regan, Carol J. Adams, Josephine Donovan, Barbara Noske, Arnold Arluke, Ken Shapiro, and many leading sociologists, anthropologists, and psychologists. The book also comes with an extensive bibliography of hundreds of articles and books.

Inspired by the dynamic new field of Human-Animal Studies (HAS), award-winning professor of sociology Clifton Flynn has gathered a collection of 30 multi-disciplinary papers in which scientists, sociologists, philosophers, and others discuss our relationship to animals. Despite the fact that more Americans raise companion animals than children, as well as our reliance on them for science, food, and entertainment, we have completely suppressed our kinship with animals in order to maintain our profoundly disrespectful treatment of them until now. It's been just 30 years since academics have begun to take the human-animal bond seriously, prompting the development of HAS. The discipline is primarily anthropocentric, discussing what our animal-interactions teach us about humans as well as the economic, environmental, health, and cultural impact. But with contributions from the likes of Tom Regan and Carol J. Adams, Flynn hopes readers will also consider the ways in which we affect and are responsible for non-human animals. From the Author
Social Creatures was created to accommodate the need for an anthology in the growing field of Human-Animal Studies. Since its publication, *Social Creatures* has been adopted at colleges and universities across the US and Canada, including the University of Chicago, William Patterson College, Cape Breton University (Canada), Wofford College, University of Colorado, Rollins College, Texas Christian University, SUNY Buffalo, Central New Mexico Community College, University of Missouri, and Eastern Kentucky University. About the Author
Clif Flynn is a professor of sociology at the University of South Carolina Upstate. He is a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. Flynn has numerous publications on animal abuse and its relationship to human violence. In 2001, he was awarded the Best New Animals Society Course Award by the Humane Society of the United States.