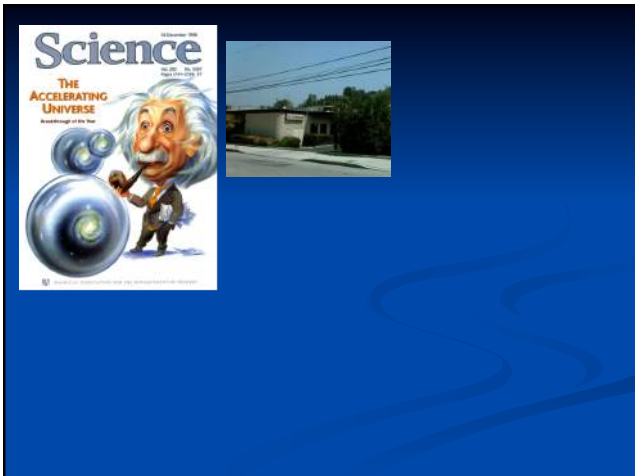
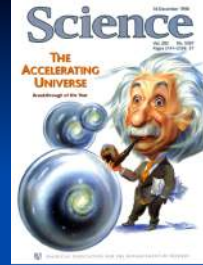
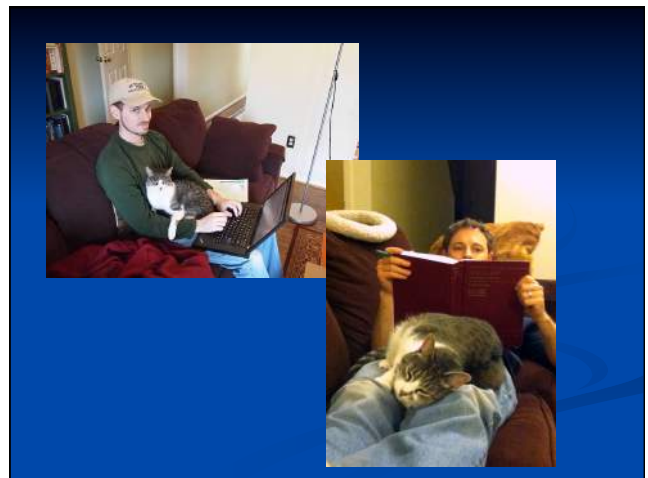


Cats, Dogs, and the Road to Personhood

David Grimm, Ph.D.





In the beginning...

In the beginning...

Dogs



(c) 2011 - Monty Sloan

In the beginning...

Dogs



(c) 2011 - Monty Sloan

- Evolved from the gray wolf

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- Evolved from the gray wolf
- Domesticated between 10,000 and 30,000 years ago

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- Working animal: hunting, guarding, hauling supplies

In the beginning...

Cats



Rute Martins of Lova's Photography / Wikimedia Commons

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Rute Martins of Lova's Photography / Wikimedia Commons

- Evolved from the African wildcat

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- Evolved from the African wildcat
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- Early farming culture
- Working animal: rodent control

The Rise of the Pet

The Rise of the Pet



Davis et al., *Nature*, 276, 608-610

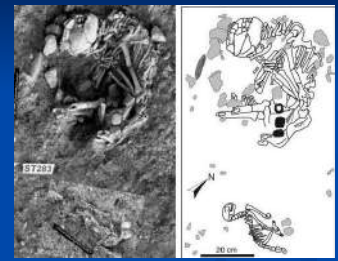
Ain Mallaha, Northern Israel: One of world's first permanent settlements. 10,000 – 12,000 years ago.

The Rise of the Pet



Davis et al., *Nature*, 276, 608-610

Ain Mallaha, Northern Israel: One of world's first permanent settlements. 10,000 – 12,000 years ago.



Vigne et al., *Science*, 304, 259

Shillourekombos, Cyprus: Early farming community. ~9,500 years ago.

The Rise of the Pet



Guillaume Blanchard / Wikimedia Commons

The Rise of the Pet



Guillaume Blanchard / Wikimedia Commons



Wolfgang Sauber / Wikimedia Commons

"To Helena, foster child, soul without comparison, and deserving of praise."

The Good Times Don't Last

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Pope Gregory IX: Vox in Rama (1233) →
Black cats linked to Satan, millions killed
throughout Europe

The Good Times Don't Last



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Rene Descartes (mid 1600s) → Animals are
mere machines. Helps justify hundreds of
years of vivisection on dogs.

Pets Become Family

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- Victorian Era (19th century)
→ new age of kindness and sentimentality

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- Animals disappear from cities at turn of 20th century, severing our last daily connection with nature



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Pets Become Family



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- Flea and tick products bring pets indoors in early 1900s, and the pet industry is born
- Breakdown of large family units, rise of solo living and empty nest in late 20th century



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Today's Fur Baby

Today's Fur Baby



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www.dofomo.com



www.petfoodline.com

Today's Fur Baby



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www.dofomo.com



www.petfoodline.com

- ~30% of homes have a cat, ~37% have a dog. Twice as many homes have pets as have children.

Today's Fur Baby



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www.dofomo.com



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- We'll spend more than \$55 billion on our pets this year. That's more than we spend on movies, video games, and music—combined.

Today's Fur Baby



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www.dcfurrow.com



www.purinafood.com

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- We'll spend more than \$55 billion on our pets this year. That's more than we spend on movies, video games, and music—combined.
- More than 90% of pet owners consider their pet a member of the family. More than half would be "very likely" to risk their lives to save a pet. More than half would rather live with a dog or cat than a human if trapped on a desert island.

The Road to Personhood

The Road to Personhood

In such as are of a nature tame and domestic, (as horses, kine, sheep, poultry, and the like) a man may have as absolute a property as in any inanimate being... The stealing, or forcible abduction, of such property as this, is also felony; for these are things of intrinsic value, serving for the food of man, or else for the uses of husbandry. ... but not so, if they are only kept for pleasure, curiosity, or whim, as dogs, bears, cats, apes, parrots and singing birds; because their value is not intrinsic, but depending only on the caprice of the owner.

William Blackstone
Commentaries on the Laws of England
1765-1769

The Road to Personhood

The Road to Property

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- **Mid 1900s:** States make pet theft a felony crime



The Road to Personhood

The Protected Pet

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The Brown Brothers / Wikimedia Commons

The Road to Personhood

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- **Early 1900s:** ASPCA turns its attention to dogs and cats, displacing cruel dog catchers and establishing humane shelters.



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The Road to Personhood

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- **Early 1900s:** ASPCA turns its attention to dogs and cats, displacing cruel dog catchers and establishing humane shelters.
- **1964:** HSUS founded. Fights "pound seizure", spay/neuter, and pushed for felony anti-cruelty laws. Today, 49 states have such laws.



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The Road to Personhood

Beyond Property

The Road to Personhood

Beyond Property

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Aruna / Wikimedia Commons

The Road to Personhood

Beyond Property

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- **1979:** Dead cat placed in dog's coffin. New York civil court: *"This court now overrules prior precedent and holds that a pet is not just a thing but occupies a special place somewhere between a person and a piece of personal property."* Other courts begin to allow claims for loss of companionship, emotional distress, and other awards typically reserved for humans.



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The Road to Personhood

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- **2000:** Tennessee passes "T-Bo" act. Allows owners of cats and dogs to recover up to \$5,000 in non-economic damages. Pet custody cases rise in frequency, with judges considering the "best interests" of the cat or dog. Uniform Trust Code allows people to leave money to pets, opening the door for legal representation. Dog and Cat Protection Act bans trade in pet fur.



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The Road to Personhood

Recent Laws

The Road to Personhood

Recent Laws

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Andrea Booher / FEMA

The Road to Personhood

Recent Laws

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- **2010:** Massachusetts becomes first state to ban devocalization.



Andrea Booher / FEMA



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The Road to Personhood

Recent Laws

- **2006: PETS Act.** Pets incorporated into federal disaster planning. Encourage states to evacuate and house pets during national disasters.
- **2010:** Massachusetts becomes first state to ban devocalization.
- **2013: Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act.** Provide lifelong medical care for retired military working dogs. Create medals for their service. [Reclassify MWDs from "equipment" to "canine members of the armed forces"]. Trying again in 2014.



Andrea Booher / FEMA



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The Road to Personhood

Movements

The Road to Personhood

Movements

- **The Guardian Campaign:** In Defense of Animals launches The Guardian Campaign in 1994. To date, 19 cities and the state of Rhode Island have adopted the word "guardian" in addition to or instead of "owner" in their animal-related ordinances.



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- **Animal Legal Defense Fund:** Founded in 1979, ALDF has worked harder than any other organization to expand the rights of cats and dogs in the courtroom and legislature. Has pushed animal abuser registries, including pets in domestic violence restraining orders, and mandatory reporting of abuse. 145 law schools teach animal law (more than half of U.S. law schools), and there are currently about 1500 lawyers practicing animal law in the U.S.



Where Do We Stand Today?

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Cats and dogs are family members and virtual children

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Cats and dogs are the most legally protected animals in the country

Cats and dogs are on the precipice of personhood???

So... ACC&D

So... ACC&D



So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

- A pest

So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

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- A nuisance

So... ACC&D

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So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

- A pest
- A nuisance
- An invasive species
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- “Vermin”. *OSHA shipyard employment guidelines list feral cats under “vermin” that may pose a danger to employees. Also included are insects, birds, and rodents.*

So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

- Biologically identical to a housecat

So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

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So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

- Biologically identical to a housecat



Friend?



So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

- Biologically identical to a housecat



Friend?

Foe?



So... ACC&D

A feral cat is...

- Biologically identical to a housecat



Friend?

Foe?

Family?



So... ACC&D

The lessons of 30,000 years of pet history?

So... ACC&D

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- *We* define our pets. Yesterday, they were worthless property. Today, they are our sacred cows. What will they be tomorrow?

So... ACC&D

The lessons of 30,000 years of pet history?

- *We* define our pets. Yesterday, they were worthless property. Today, they are our sacred cows. What will they be tomorrow?
- *We* created these animals. *We* turned them into children. So *we* have an obligation to care for them, whether they be ours or the “orphans” on the street.

So... ACC&D

The lessons of 30,000 years of pet history?

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- *We* created these animals. *We* turned them into children. So *we* have an obligation to care for them, whether they be ours or the “orphans” on the street.
- The future is up to us. And so is the fate of cats and dogs.

Shameless plugs!

- *CITIZEN CANINE: Our Evolving Relationship with Cats and Dogs* (Public Affairs, Spring 2014)
- www.davidhgrimm.com
- @David_Grimm on Twitter
- <https://www.facebook.com/davidhgrimm>

Thanks!