

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ANTHROZOOLOGY (ISAZ)  
SUMMER MEETING, 24 July 1993

**Ethological and Behavioral Approaches to the Study of  
Human-Animal Interactions**

(106 Wellman Hall, University of California, Davis CA., USA).

Conference organisers: Lynette Hart (UC, Davis)  
James Serpell (University of Cambridge, UK)

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ANTHROZOOLOGY - SUMMER MEETING  
24 July 1993, 106 Wellman Hall, University of California, Davis CA., USA.

**Ethological and Behavioral Approaches to the Study of  
Human-Animal Interactions**

Programme

**Chairperson: Lynette Hart (UC, Davis)**

Invited Papers

- 09.30-10.00      **Approaches to animals' social worlds.**  
Bill Mason (UC Davis).
- 10.00-10.30      **Enrichment for primates...both people and monkeys.**  
Jeff Roberts (UC Davis).
- 10.30-11.00      **How tourists affect animals, and vice versa.**  
Dale Lott (UC Davis).
- 11.00-11.30      COFFEE BREAK

Contributed Papers

- 11.30-12.00      **Asian elephants from their drivers' perspectives.**  
Lynette Hart (UC, Davis).
- 12.00-12.30      **The media, mad dogs and mayhem.**  
Anthony Podberscek (University of Cambridge, UK)
- 12.30-13.30      LUNCH
- Chairperson: James Serpell (Cambridge University)**
- 13.30-14.00      **The ethology (and psychology) of the human-cat  
relationship.**  
Dennis Turner (IET & University of Zurich, Switzerland).
- 14.00-14.30      **What people like about cats.**  
Ruth Zasloff (UC, Davis)
- 14.30-15.00      **Friendliness in cats: implications for cat-owners and cat  
welfare.**  
Sandra McCune (Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, UK).
- 15.00-15.30      **Rolling behaviour in domestic cats.**  
Hilary Feldman (UC, Berkeley).
- 15.30-16.00      **Owner-directed behaviour in house-cats: evidence for  
incomplete neotenisation.**  
John Bradshaw, S.E. Lowe & S.L. Brown (University of  
Southampton).
- 16.00-16.30      TEA/COFFEE BREAK

**Chairperson: John Bradshaw (University of Southampton, UK)**

- 16.30-17.00      **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

## **Approaches to Animals' Social Worlds**

William A. Mason  
California Regional Primate Research Center  
University of California, Davis

Humankind has an unquenchable desire to enter into the mental life of animals. To actually experience the world as another being does is impossible, of course, even when it is another person. Nevertheless, over the centuries many approaches have been tried, and some have been more successful than others. Examples of successful and unsuccessful attempts to enter the social world of animals, and the reasons why they work or fail, will be considered.

## **Enrichment for Primates . . . Both People and Monkeys**

Jeffrey A. Roberts  
California Regional Primate Research Center  
University of California, Davis

All facilities housing non-human primates are required by the 1985 Animal Welfare Act amendment to provide environmental enrichment for animals in their colony. Many aspects of colony management that had been standard practice for years are now formally incorporated into an Environmental Enrichment Plan. Other practices, such as the incorporation of toys or food foraging devices, represented new areas for primate management. In implementing these programs, it is important that the quality of sanitation and daily care not be compromised. At the California Regional Primate Research Center, implementation of the Environmental Enrichment Plan has been conducted by the animal care staff. This provides enrichment for the animals in our care and stimulates more involvement and positive interactions between staff and the animals under their care.

## How Ecotourists Affect Asian Rhino, and Vice Versa

Dale F. Lott  
Wildlife, Fish Conservation Biology  
University of California, Davis

Michael C. McCoy  
Research Expeditions

We studied the reactions of both tourists and Asian rhinos to ecotourism visits in Chitwan National Park, Nepal. The rhino's behavior changed substantially during the visit; they spent more time being alert and less time feeding. The closer the tourists approached during the visits the more the rhinos' behavior changed. Half the rhinos approached by visitors to 12 meters or less left the immediate area. Few visitors approached that closely, the visits were short, and most rhinos' behavior quickly recovered to pre-visit levels. However, excessively close encounters should be avoided.

More than 90 percent of the tourists were generally satisfied with their experience, finding it exciting and producing a sense of contentment. In general, there appeared to be three affective dimensions active in the tourists' evaluation of the event. These included an "activity" dimension, an "adventure" dimension, and a sort of "spiritual" dimension. Only five percent found it anxiety provoking. Ten percent expressed some remorse about intruding on the rhinos. The overwhelming majority found satisfaction in the experience. There was no correlation between viewing distance and visitor satisfaction.

ASIAN ELEPHANTS FROM THEIR DRIVERS' PERSPECTIVES

LYNETTE A. HART, Center for Animals in Society, University of California, Davis, CA 95616 USA

Elephant drivers are known to share a relationship with their elephants rarely matched in other human-animal interactions with regard to time invested, extent of cooperative activity, and everpresent risk to the driver. An opportunity to further investigate the drivers' relationships with a group of elephants and to gather information about tourists to whom they gave rides was presented at two tourist lodges in Nepal where elephants are used to transport tourists into the jungle. The study sought to investigate the drivers' perceptions regarding the individual and social behavior of the elephants, including their interactions with drivers, and their perceptions about tourists when viewing rhinoceros. Standardized open-ended questions were administered with translator assistance to 17 head drivers of elephants. Drivers discussed major individual differences and social preferences among the elephants. Although drivers varied in specifying the most desirable elephant at their lodge, they highly agreed on the identity of the worst elephant. They complained about those few tourists who seemed to want to get too close to wildlife attractions such as rhino, but did note that tourists with long camera lenses did not seek to get very close to the rhinoceros, in contrast to those with short lenses.

## THE MEDIA, MAD DOGS AND MAYHEM

Anthony L. Podberscek BVSc PhD  
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UK

Literature on dog attacks is readily available to scientists through various journals and books. However, for the public at large the press is one of the main sources of information on this topic and it is through this medium that we can gain an insight into the attitudes people have towards dogs and other animals.

Five major British newspapers ( 4 broadsheets and 1 tabloid) and their related Sunday editions were monitored over a 5 year period (1988 to 1992 inclusive) to locate articles on dog attacks to humans. From 1989 to 1991 (inclusive) there was intense media interest in dog attacks while in 1988 and 1992 there was comparatively little. In 1989 and 1990, German Shepherds and Rottweilers were most often reported as the attacking dog but the Rottweiler had the most negative publicity. Breed registration figures reflected this publicity: there was a dramatic drop in Rottweiler numbers (10,341 in 1989, 3,597 in 1990). In 1991, the Pit Bull Terrier was most often in the news and the government hurriedly introduced new aggressive dog legislation, the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

The hysteria and outrage generated by the attacks were greatly out of proportion to the actual risks. This over-reaction appears to be linked to the dog's position in society. As a loyal and faithful servant and companion, a trusted family member and friend it is totally unacceptable that a dog could savage or kill a human. The dog's position in society appears to be inherently unstable and with even relatively minor shifts in social and economic pressures the species could rapidly drop to a lower status.

THE ETHOLOGY (and Psychology) OF THE HUMAN-CAT RELATIONSHIP Dennis C. Turner,  
Ethology, University of Zurich, CH-8057 Zurich and I.E.T., Postfach, CH-8816 Hirzel

Ten years of research on cat behavior, human-cat interactions and human-cat relationships will be summarized and integrated in this paper. Topics to be covered include: 1) The development of a first relationship and factors influencing the course of that development; 2) Differences between relationships and the influence of the cat (behavioral style and breed differences), the person involved (sex, age and experience), and conditions of captivity (housing with/without outdoor access, number of cats) on those differences; 3) assessment of character differences between cats in different relationships and of the quality of the relationship; and 4) directions future research might take. Most recent data comparing the behavior of 3 breeds and relationships between cats and elderly persons will be ready for presentation by June 1st, 1993.



## What People Like About Cats

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Center for Animals in Society  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California, Davis  
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### Abstract

A sample of one hundred cat owners participated in a survey about their relationships with their cats. Fifty-four of the respondents were members of a nationwide Prodigy cat club and 46 were attendees at a cat show in Anaheim, CA. Ninety-two participants reported preferring cats to all other types of pets. The mean number of years of cat ownership was 23.39 and the mean self-rated level of attachment on a 10-point scale was 9.23. Respondents indicated how their cats were acquired, the reasons for preferring cats, knowledge of cat care, sources of information about cat care and behavior, and provided frequency ratings on 14 dimensions of cat behavior. Emotional attachment to the cat was assessed and was compared with emotional attachment to a human companion or spouse. In general, respondents reported that the primary benefit of owning a cat was unconditional love and acceptance while the primary benefit of their human relationships was conversation and social interaction.

## **Friendliness in cats: implications for cat owners and cat welfare.**

Sandra McCune,  
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UK.

### Abstract.

Enormous variation exists between cats in their friendliness towards people. Previous studies have shown that both the early socialization experience of kittens and the temperament of their fathers have profound effects on their later friendliness to people. The interaction between this genetic effect and early experience is examined for the differences it produces between individuals. Although cat breeders presently focus on rearing strategies to produce healthy, friendly cats, this study finds that temperament characteristics of the father are equally important.

Friendliness towards people is thought highly desirable in cats by cat owners but it also has an effect on cat welfare. A cat's ability to cope with mildly stressful human interactions such as being examined by a vet or show judge, being caged or adjusting to life in an animal shelter are all improved in friendly cats.

## ROLLING BEHAVIOUR IN DOMESTIC CATS

Hilary N. Feldman, Department of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

Rolling behaviour was examined in a outdoor colony of semiferal domestic cats (*Felis silvestris catus*). It is a behaviour that has been documented only rarely in felids, although it has been seen in domestic cats and lions. Rolling involves a body posture that strongly resembles "passive submission" described in canids, with splayed legs and an exposed ventral area. Rolling was seen in several different social contexts. These included female rolling, as an aspect of oestrus behaviour, and play initiation in kittens. However, the occurrence of frequent male-male rolling suggests a further function for this activity, as a form of subordinate behaviour. This has interesting implications for pet cats and their interactions with owners.

## Owner-directed behaviour of house cats; evidence for incomplete neotenisation

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Summary. The behaviour patterns directed by cats towards their owners are a mixture of those performed only by adult cats (*e.g.* scent-marking of objects with the perioral glands) and those that appear to be residual kitten behaviour, not seen in free-living adult cats (*e.g.* treading with the front paws, probably homologous with the teat-kneading of kittens). Experiments to determine the stimuli that release these displays will be described, and discussed in terms of two contrasting hypotheses of the cat-human relationship; (*i*) that the adult pet cat regards its owner as a pseudo-parent (Morris 1986), (*ii*) that cat-human behaviour is derived from adult cat-cat social behaviour.

Reference. Morris D (1986) *Catwatching*. Jonathan Cape, London.