

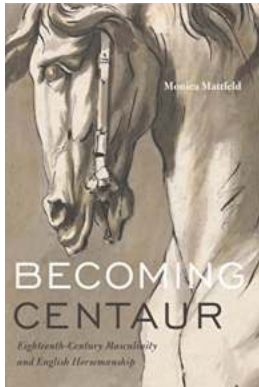
# The Fascinating Bond Between Animals and Cultures



Animals have always held a special place in human societies throughout history. They have not only been a vital part of our ecosystem but also played important roles in shaping our cultures and traditions. The bond between animals and cultures is a fascinating aspect of our world, filled with stories of admiration, reverence, and coexistence.

## **Animals as Spiritual Entities**

In many cultures, animals are considered spiritual beings with profound symbolism. From ancient Egypt's worship of cats as divine creatures to Native American tribes revering the eagle as a symbol of strength and power, animals have often been associated with guiding forces and mystical qualities.



## **Becoming Centaur: Eighteenth-Century Masculinity and English Horsemanship (Animalibus: Of Animals and Cultures Book 9)**

by Sean Earley (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
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To this day, religious ceremonies and rituals involve animal symbolism. In Hinduism, cows are considered sacred and are worshipped during festivals such as "Gopastami." Similarly, in Japanese culture, the Tanabata festival celebrates the mythical weaving of two star-crossed lovers, represented by the stars Vega and Altair, with colorful streamers made to resemble the scales of the Koi fish.



NYBAAS



PICOLLUS



RAHOVART



RIBESAL



SCOX  
DUKE AND HIGH MARQUESS OF HELL



STOLAS  
HIGH PRINCE OF HELL



TORNARSUK



UKOBACH



UVALL  
GREAT DUKE OF HELL



VOLAC  
HIGH PRINCE OF HELL



XAPHAN



YAN-GANT-Y-TAN

## Animals in Folklore and Mythology

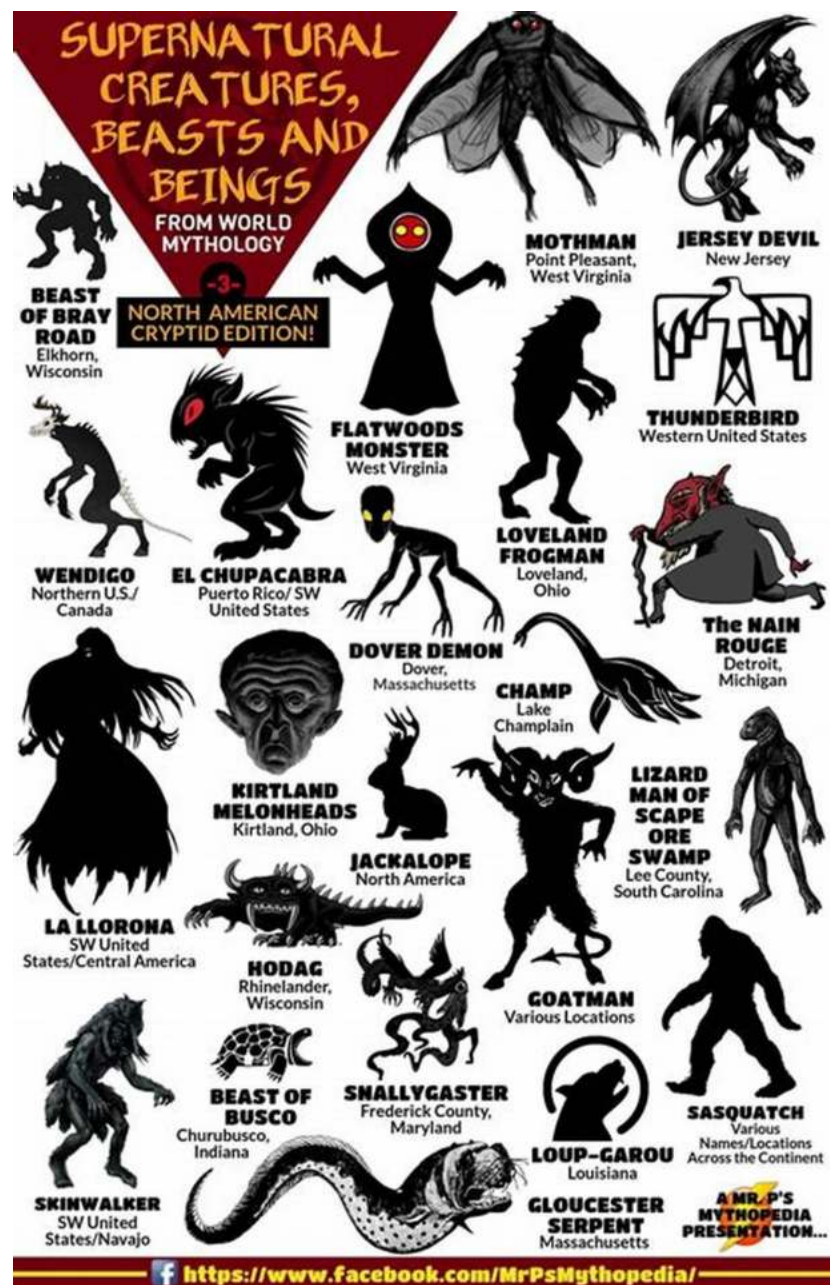
Countless ancient tales and legends feature animals as central characters, portraying their wisdom, cunning, and symbolic meanings. These stories serve as valuable moral lessons and teach important values to individuals and communities.

For instance, the Aesop's Fables, a collection of ancient Greek stories, include anthropomorphic animals who exemplify human virtues and vices. These tales



have transcended time and continue to be retold to teach valuable life lessons to children and adults alike.

Animals are also prominent figures in various creation myths. Native American tribes believe that the world was created on the back of a giant turtle, while Norse mythology speaks of a gigantic serpent that encircles the Earth, symbolizing the cyclical nature of time.




## **Animals as Cultural Symbols**


Many animals have become iconic symbols of different cultures, representing national identity, strength, or unique characteristics. These animal representations often find their way into flags, emblems, and even sports teams' names, becoming a visual testament to the culture they embody.


A prime example is the bald eagle, which is not only the national bird of the United States but also a symbol of freedom and independence. Similarly, the panda holds great significance in Chinese culture, symbolizing peace, harmony, and friendship.


## 12 Animals that are Proud National Symbols


Celebrate World Wildlife Day on 3 March by learning more about the animals that represent different nations. Global package consolidator MyUS ships to countries around the world, and offers a look at the most popular, and unusual, creatures they have chosen as their symbols.


- 


**Lion**  
The king of the beasts is the most popular national animal. With the loudest roar of all the big cats, lions can be heard at a distance of 8 km (5 mi). This regal feline proudly represents Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, England, Ethiopia, Iran, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Singapore & Sri Lanka.
- 


**Golden Eagle**  
This majestic bird of prey is the national animal of Egypt, Iraq, Germany, Mexico and Albania. These raptors are extremely fast, and can dive after prey at speeds of more than 241 km (150 mi) per hour.
- 


**Tiger**  
As the largest member of the feline (cat) family, tigers are formidable hunters that can eat up to 27 kg (60 lb) of meat in one sitting. Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, South Korea and Vietnam all call this beautiful, endangered creature their official animal.
- 


**Arabian Oryx**  
The Arabian Oryx is well suited to its harsh desert environment, with a white coat to reflect the sun's rays and wide hooves for walking on sand. It's no wonder Jordan, Qatar, Oman and the UAE all claim this adaptable antelope as their official animal.
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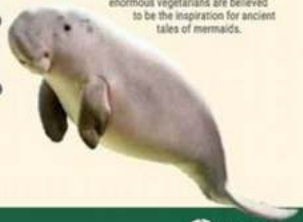
**Mute Swan**  
While appearing graceful and placid, swans have voracious appetites and can be quite aggressive. With its hoarse voice, the national symbol of the UK and Denmark is not really mute, and its wingbeats can be heard as far as a mile away.
- 


**Kiwi**  
This flightless bird is only found in the country that proudly claims it as its national animal—New Zealand. The kiwi is nocturnal, with hair-like feathers and a keen sense of smell. Despite its small size, a kiwi can outrun a human on its four-toed feet.
- 

**Ganges River Dolphin**  
The national aquatic animal of India, the Ganges River dolphin, lives in freshwater lakes and rivers in one of the world's most densely populated areas. This unusual mammal is nicknamed the "Susu" because of the sound it makes when coming to the surface for air.
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**Okapi**  
Most closely related to the giraffe, the solitary okapi is found only in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. So little was known about the Congo's shy national animal that it was not recognized as a species until the 20th century.
- 

**Emu**  
The second-largest bird in the world (next to the ostrich) the emu is the symbol of its homeland—Australia. Designed for life on the arid outback, emus have a specialized respiratory system that allows them to cool themselves and conserve water.
- 

**Baird's Tapir**  
The national animal of Belize is also the largest indigenous mammal in Central America. This rarely-seen primitive ancestor of rhinos and horses has changed very little in the last 35 million years.
- 

**Dugong**  
Closely related to elephants, the national animal of Papua New Guinea looks much more like its other kin, the manatee. These enormous vegetarians are believed to be the inspiration for ancient tales of mermaids.
- 

**Dodo**  
Extinct since 1681, the dodo is the symbol of the island of Mauritius, where it once lived. Little is known about this flightless bird that evolved and thrived in relative isolation until the arrival of humans and other bird-eating mammals.

## Animal-Human Relationships

The bond between animals and cultures involves more than symbolism and folklore; it extends into practical and functional relationships. Throughout history, animals have provided humans with invaluable companionship, assistance, and inspiration.

From herding livestock to detecting dangers, dogs have been loyal companions to humankind for thousands of years. They have aided in hunting, protected homes, and even provided emotional support as therapy dogs.

In farming communities, horses were essential for transportation, plowing fields, and carrying heavy loads. Similarly, elephants have been utilized in various Asian cultures for transportation and labor-intensive tasks.



## **Conservation Efforts and Cultural Perspectives**

The relationship between animals and cultures is not limited to the past. It continues to shape conversations surrounding conservation, wildlife protection, and sustainable practices.

Indigenous communities have long understood the importance of maintaining a harmonious relationship with their environment and the animals they share it with. Their cultural practices and wisdom often become essential components of modern conservation efforts, promoting sustainable practices that benefit both humans and animals.

Furthermore, cultural perspectives on wildlife conservation differ greatly around the world. From India's sacred cow to African tribes' protection of elephants and rhinos, cultural beliefs play an influential role in shaping attitudes towards wildlife and conservation efforts.

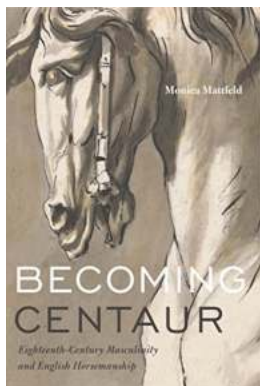




When we explore the intricate relationship between animals and cultures, we uncover a wealth of knowledge, tradition, and respect for life in all its forms. From the spiritual to the practical, animals have left an indelible mark on our cultures and continue to shape our world in profound ways.

As we strive to preserve the biodiversity of our planet and navigate the complexities of cultural diversity, it is essential to acknowledge the role animals

play in our lives. By embracing our connection with animals and learning from the cultural wisdom that surrounds them, we can create a future where the bonds between animals, cultures, and humans flourish.



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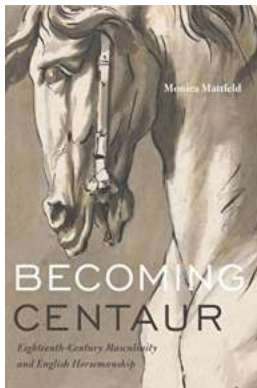


In this study of the relationship between men and their horses in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century England, Monica Mattfeld explores the experience of horsemanship and how it defined one's gendered and political positions within society.

Men of the period used horses to transform themselves, via the image of the centaur, into something other—something powerful, awe-inspiring, and mythical. Focusing on the manuals, memoirs, satires, images, and ephemera produced by some of the period's most influential equestrians, Mattfeld examines how the concepts and practices of horse husbandry evolved in relation to social, cultural, and political life. She looks closely at the role of horses in the world of Thomas Hobbes and William Cavendish; the changes in human social behavior and horse

handling ushered in by elite riding houses such as Angelo's Academy and Mr. Carter's; and the public perception of equestrian endeavors, from performances at places such as Astley's Amphitheatre to the satire of Henry William Bunbury. Throughout, Mattfeld shows how horses aided the performance of idealized masculinity among communities of riders, in turn influencing how men were perceived in regard to status, reputation, and gender.

Drawing on human-animal studies, gender studies, and historical studies, *Becoming Centaur* offers a new account of masculinity that reaches beyond anthropocentrism to consider the role of animals in shaping man.



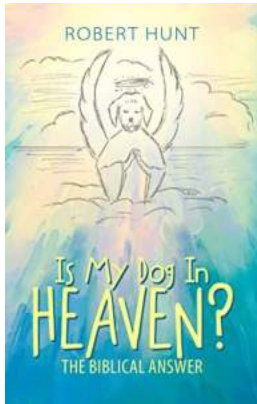
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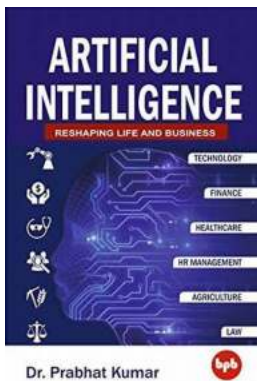
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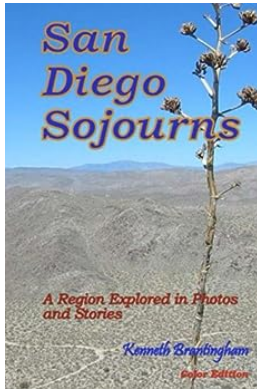
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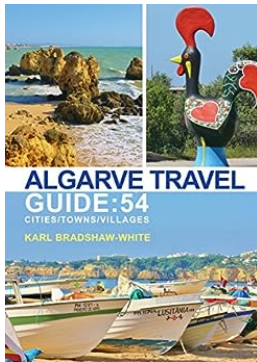




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