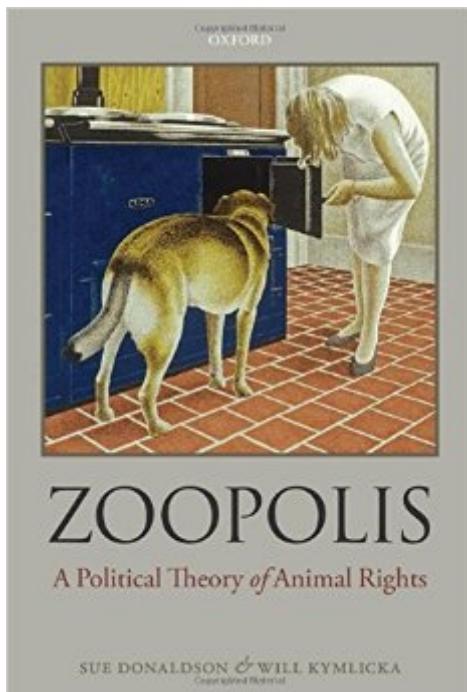


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Zoopolis: A Political Theory Of Animal Rights



Synopsis

Zoopolis offers a new agenda for the theory and practice of animal rights. Most animal rights theory focuses on the intrinsic capacities or interests of animals, and the moral status and moral rights that these intrinsic characteristics give rise to. Zoopolis shifts the debate from the realm of moral theory and applied ethics to the realm of political theory, focusing on the relational obligations that arise from the varied ways that animals relate to human societies and institutions. Building on recent developments in the political theory of group-differentiated citizenship, Zoopolis introduces us to the genuine "political animal". It argues that different types of animals stand in different relationships to human political communities. Domesticated animals should be seen as full members of human-animal mixed communities, participating in the cooperative project of shared citizenship. Wilderness animals, by contrast, form their own sovereign communities entitled to protection against colonization, invasion, domination and other threats to self-determination. "Liminal" animals who are wild but live in the midst of human settlement (such as crows or raccoons) should be seen as "denizens", resident of our societies, but not fully included in rights and responsibilities of citizenship. To all of these animals we owe respect for their basic inviolable rights. But we inevitably and appropriately have very different relations with them, with different types of obligations. Humans and animals are inextricably bound in a complex web of relationships, and Zoopolis offers an original and profoundly affirmative vision of how to ground this complex web of relations on principles of justice and compassion.

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Customer Reviews

This book is an astounding new perspective on animal rights. It explains in clear, concise language why animals deserve not only negative rights (e.g. being free from harm and exploitation) but also positive rights (e.g. basic statuses of citizenship for domesticated animals). While not entirely convinced of their arguments regarding wild and liminal animals, this book genuinely changed my perspective on the status of domesticated animals and how we ought to treat them in a way that hasn't happened since I read Animal Liberation. This book is good for the quiet it's-my-choice vegan and the outspoken abolitionist alike. Highly recommended.

This book makes a unique and needed contribution to the animal rights movement. I found it extremely well thought out in terms of providing a roadmap and vision of a world where we humans incorporate other animals into our political sphere of concern in sharing the earth together. It is well worth reading.

This book was a required text for one of my political science courses. I thought the author discussed some thoughtful arguments on the topic of animal rights and citizenship. Though I do not agree with the author completely, this is a good text to review and it gave me some new perspectives on the treatment of animals, especially domesticated animals.

The most advanced and detailed proposal for a theory and implementation of animal rights in the last 40 years .

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