

# Animals and Us

Over the past 150 years, the way we interact with animals has changed significantly. While social developments have placed emphasis on the welfare of animals, technological advancements have simply given us new ways to exploit them. This timeline retraces the evolution of this complicated relationship.

## AN ANIMAL SAFE HAVEN

Yellowstone National Park, located across Wyoming, Montana and Idaho in the USA, was the first national park to be opened in the world. Upon its opening, mining, logging and hunting in the area was banned. Today, over four million visitors a year get to visit its bears, wolves, elks and eagles.



POSITIVE EVOLUTION

+ 1872

NEGATIVE EVOLUTION

- 1920s



## CHICKENS IN THE DARK

Before this development, chickens couldn't stay healthy without sunlight. The discovery of vitamin D led to the factory farming of battery hens: now that hens could be fed this vital nutrient rather than getting it naturally, farmers could hold them in confined little cages, essentially abusing them for their eggs.

- 1938



## BEAUTY IS PAIN...?

After 100 people died from taking the untested medicine 'Elixir Sulfanilamide,' the US government passed a law which required companies to guarantee that new products were safe for human consumption. This meant that many drugs and cosmetic companies began testing their products on animals, no matter the potential dangers involved.

## THE FUTURE OF MEAT?

A team from Maastricht University in the Netherlands made a huge breakthrough when they successfully grew a burger from bovine cells. This meat-free burger cost a whopping \$300,000 to create, but just four years later the price dropped to \$12. If the price drops any lower, maybe one day we will all be replacing our beef burgers with bovine ones!



+ 2013

- 1949



## ANIMAL ASTRONAUTS

A monkey named Albert II was the first live animal to reach space... the first one sent, Albert I, had died during the flight. In fact, Albert II died as well, when his parachute failed to open upon his return. Ultimately, it wouldn't be until the sixth attempt, with Albert VI, that an animal would survive the journey into space and back.

## PUTTING ANIMALS FIRST

The British government has recently banned the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. The long journeys and poor living conditions caused extreme physical and emotional stress for the animals. Similarly, zoos have responded to the demand for better living conditions for animals; in 2001 London Zoo moved its biggest animals out of the city to a much larger site, so that they could have more room to roam as they would in their natural habitats.



+ 2020

- 2019



## KEEPING PETS: KIND OR CRUEL?

The Australian government passed a bill that recognised for the first time that animals can feel pain and emotion. On this basis, animal rights groups like PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) have argued that keeping any animal confined in a house as a pet is morally wrong. But despite these developments, over 24 million pets are still living in the homes of Australian families...

Activité de médiation

see ZOOM 1

see ZOOM 2

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