

THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF

ANIMAL ETHICS

Edited by

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and

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PREFACE

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When Oxford University Press issued an invitation to us to prepare a volume on animal minds and the ethics of human uses of animals for its series of Handbooks of Philosophy, we enthusiastically accepted. This multifaceted and rapidly growing area of scholarly activity deserves sustained and careful work from philosophers and professionals in several disciplines. We have been fortunate as editors to successfully plead this case with the outstanding group of contributors to this volume. All chapters are original essays in either already prominent or largely unexplored areas of animal ethics.

The Handbook is aimed at an audience that seeks accessible and high-level philosophical work. We have asked contributors not to scale down their contributions to make them more accessible to a wide audience, but one exception is made: The Introduction to this volume is intended for a multidisciplinary audience, including readers who may for the first time be encountering complex philosophical arguments. The Introduction presents the organizational structure of the volume and each author's main arguments and conclusions.

The preparation of this volume has taken several years. We deeply appreciate the willingness of several of our authors who have encountered personal difficulties during this period to plough ahead and complete the work. We are likewise grateful for their willingness to go through numerous drafts and to exhibit great patience as this book was brought to completion.

We gratefully acknowledge the help of Yashar Saghai in the final stages of the delivery of this manuscript to the publisher. Without his help, the book might have been delayed for several weeks. We also thank Peter Ohlin for his efficient arrangement of impartial reviews during the early stages of our planning and of course to the anonymous reviewers themselves.

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