

## THE POLITICAL LIVES OF VICTORIAN ANIMALS

During the Victorian era, animals were increasingly viewed not as property or utility, but as thinking, feeling subjects worthy of inclusion within a political community. This book reexamines the nineteenth-century British animal welfare movement and animal characters in the Victorian novel in light of liberal thought, and argues that liberalism was a decisive factor in determining the cultural, ideological, and material makeup of animal–human relationships. While the animal welfare movement often represented animals as desiring submission to the human, animal characters in the Victorian novel critiqued the liberal norms that led to the oppression of both animals and humans. Through readings of animal rights legislation, animal welfare texts, and writings by Charles Dickens, Lewis Carroll, Thomas Hardy, and Olive Schreiner, Anna Feuerstein outlines the remarkably powerful political role animals played in the Victorian novel, as they offer ways to move beyond the exclusionary and contradictory strategies of liberal thought.

ANNA FEUERSTEIN is an assistant professor at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

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# THE POLITICAL LIVES OF VICTORIAN ANIMALS

*Liberal Creatures in Literature and Culture*

ANNA FEUERSTEIN

*University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*



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*Mostly for Jack, but also for Eliot and Oliver,  
my little friends*

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As we can see, the model for the art of government is that of God  
imposing his laws upon his creatures.

– Michel Foucault, “Omnes et Singulatim”

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