



Thinking about Animals in Thirteenth-Century Paris

Exploring what theologians at the University of Paris in the thirteenth century understood about the boundary between humans and animals, this book demonstrates the great variety of ways in which they held similarity and difference in productive tension. Analysing key theological works, Ian P. Wei presents extended close readings of William of Auvergne, the *Summa Halensis*, Bonaventure, Albert the Great and Thomas Aquinas. These scholars found it useful to consider animals and humans together, especially with regard to animal knowledge and behaviour, when discussing issues including creation, the fall, divine providence, the heavens, angels and demons, virtues and passions. While they frequently stressed that animals had been created for use by humans, and sometimes treated them as tools employed by God to shape human behaviour, animals were also analytical tools for the theologians themselves. This study thus reveals how animals became a crucial resource for generating knowledge of God and the whole of creation.

IAN P. WEI is Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Bristol where he co-founded the Centre for Medieval Studies. He has been a Member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (2009–2010) and his previous publications include *Intellectual Culture in Medieval Paris: Theologians and the University, c.1100–1330* (2012).

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Theologians on the Boundary Between
Humans and Animals

IAN P. WEI
University of Bristol



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For Raquel Rojo Carrillo, Betty R. Wei and Anne M. Wei

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Preface

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