Contents

List of Figures page ix
Acknowledgments x
Note on Language xiii

Introduction 1
Myanmar’s Multitudes 1
Interspecies Empire 11
Difference, Différance, and Differentiation 20
Colonizing Animals 25

1 Valuing Animals 28
Disputed Properties 28
Undead Capital 30
Subject, Object, Abject 40
Beyond Valorization and Evaluation 49

2 Vital Resources 51
The Animals in the Frame 51
Mobilizing Elephant Power 54
Cultivating Cattle 68
The Animals out of the Frame 81

3 Regulating Death 83
Death and Power 83
Killing Crocodiles 85
Unlicenced to Kill 95
Death Tolls 105

4 Imperial Differentiations 107
Touching Animals 107
Disgust and Desire 109
Pets and Pests 118
The Politics of Colonial Sensibilities 127

5 Anti-Colonial Affinities 129
The Nation and Its Animals 129
Contents

Gossiping Rodents 132
Anti-Colonial Primatology 143
Ethology as Auto-Critique 155

6 Revolting Creatures 158
A Semblance of Sovereignty 158
Beasts of Rebellion 162
A Zoo at War 174
Recovery and Revolution 183

Conclusion 185
Is Animal History Still Radical? 185
Radical History and Biology 188
Against Capitalism and Colonialism 192
Interspecies Vulnerabilities in Myanmar 197

Bibliography 202
Index 232