

ASPCApro.org presents

A History of Animal Welfare

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Biblical Comments

You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.

Deuteronomy 5:4

And He said to them, "Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?"

Luke 14:5



No man shall exercise any Tirrany or Crueltie towards any brute Creature which are usallie kept for mans use.

The Body of Liberties
Massachusetts Bay Colonie, 1641



He who is cruel to animals becomes hard also in his dealings with men. We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.

Immanuel Kant
1724-1804



Great Chain of Being *Scala Naturae*

- Aristotle (384-322 BC)
- Augustine (345-430)
- Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)
- Rene Descartes (1596-1650)



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William Hogarth Four Stages of Cruelty (1751)



William Hogarth Four Stages of Cruelty (1751)



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Formal Animal Protection



- 1822 – Ill Treatment of Cattle Bill – Richard Martin of Galway
- 1824 – formation of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) – Martin, William Wilberforce & Rev. Arthur Broome

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Evolutionary Thinking

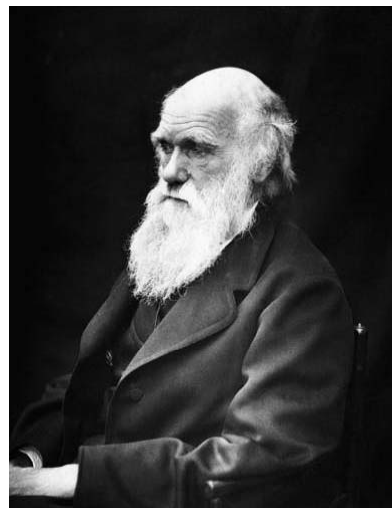
Victorian England was greatly concerned with issues of pain and suffering in medicine and efforts were being made to reduce the pain inflicted on patients. Concerns coincided with advances in anesthesia.



Evolutionary Thinking

Darwin's theory of evolution built the bridge that linked humans and other animals in their capacity to feel pain, and to suffer.

It broke the Cartesian premise that animals were automatons incapable of feeling pain.



Evolutionary Thinking

This was made most clear in Darwin's *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* (1872). This made clear that evolution and natural selection went beyond the shape and function of arms, legs and wings. It went to continuity in mental functions.



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Vivisection A special case

- Rapidly developing field of experimental physiology
- “Learned men engaged in torture”
- Remains a critical gulf between Science and Animal Rights



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Henry Bergh

- August 29, 1813 – March 12, 1888
- Son of New York City ship builder (Christian Bergh)
- Married – 1839
- Legate to the US Embassy in Russia – 1863



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The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals



- Bergh lecture on animal cruelty at Clinton Hall (February 1866)
- Charter on April 10
- Anti-cruelty law by April 19, 1866

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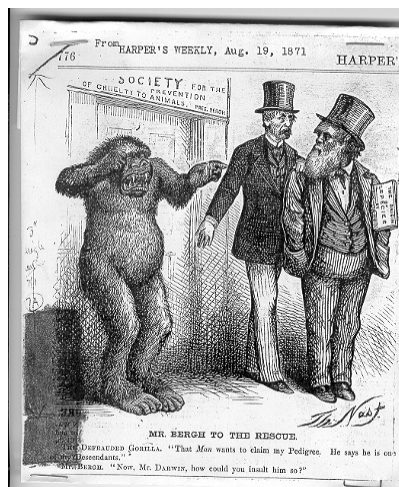
Early Efforts of ASPCA

- Horses working in New York City
- Animals transported for slaughter
- Blood sports of cock fighting, dog fighting and pigeon shoots
- Killing of stray dogs and cats



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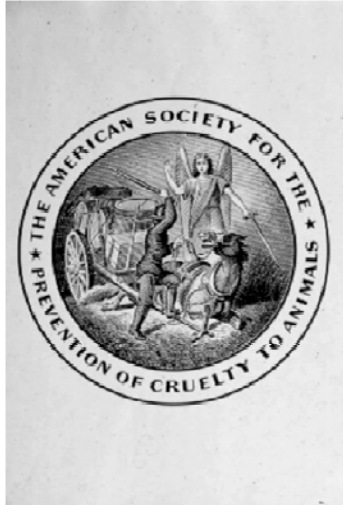
Bergh and Darwin



- Gorilla: *That Man wants to claim my pedigree. He says he is one of my descendents.*
- Bergh: *Now Mr. Darwin, how could you insult him so.*

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Formation of other SPCAs



- Erie County 1867
(Fillmore, Wells, Fargo)
- San Francisco 1868
- Massachusetts 1868
- Pennsylvania 1868

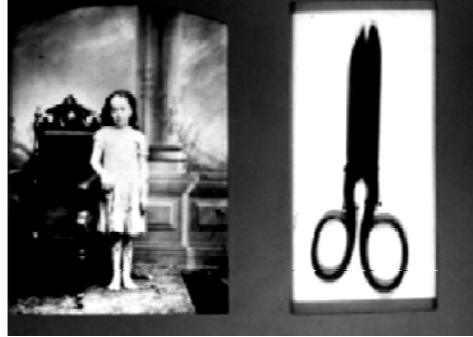


“I have now the black and blue marks on my head which were made by Mamma, and also a cut on the left side of my forehead which was made by a pair of scissors.”



The Legacy of Mary Ellen

- Spring 1874
- Etta Wheeler came to Henry Bergh
- Elbridge Gerry's use of *habeas corpus*
- Jacob Riis promoted the myth Mary Ellen was protected under animal laws



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Legacy of Mary Ellen

- Mary Ellen went to live with Etta Wheeler's sister in upstate NY
- Died in 1956 at 92 yrs after raising several children
- Bergh and Gerry would form SPCC



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Mary Ellen 1946



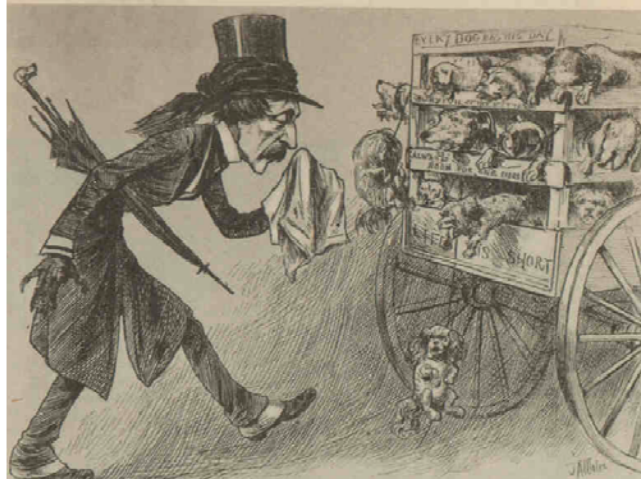
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Humane evolves

- 1774 – Royal Humane Society
 - Drowning victims
- 1824 – Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals formed (SPCA)
- 1866 – American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- 1874 – Mary Ellen rescue
- 1877 – American Humane Association
- 1885 – “Humane” for child and animal

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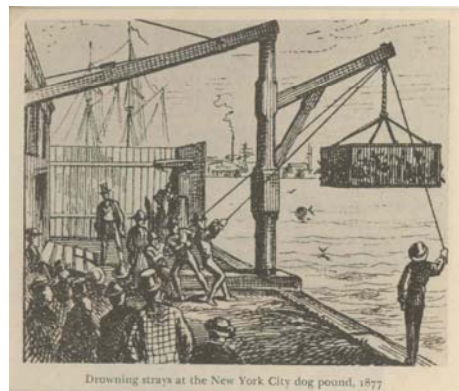
Bergh Mourns the Strays



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Animal Shelters

- Dogs (and cats) were killed by either beating, strangling or drowning.
- Daily drownings in New York City attracted on-lookers, but no real protests



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A Bad Start for ACOs



- Since compensation was based on redemption – they resorted to stealing dogs for ransom.
- In some cases they took protection money

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Animal Shelters

The first *humane* animal shelter was developed in Philadelphia by the Women's Auxilliary of the Pennsylvania SPCA - 1874



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City Refuge

- Accepted Philadelphia's strays and unwanted dogs and cats
- First humane animal shelter
- Provided medical treatment
- Placement into new homes
- Humane euthanasia



Pennsylvania SPCA *Caroline Earle White*

- 1868 – PennSPCA
- 1869 – Women's Branch of the PennSPCA
- 1874 – "City Refuge for Lost and Suffering Animals"



Animal Control Conversion

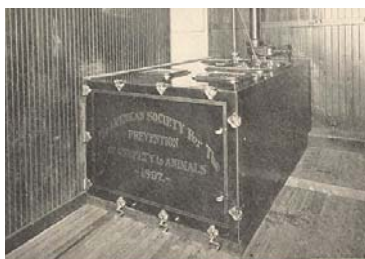
1894 – ASPCA accepted the animal control duties for New York City

- Instituted dog licenses for funding
- Regular salaries for staff
- *Praised for killing more animals than before*

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Animal Shelters



Euthanasia

- It was not a question of how many – but **how**
- The development of various gas chambers

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Animal Shelters

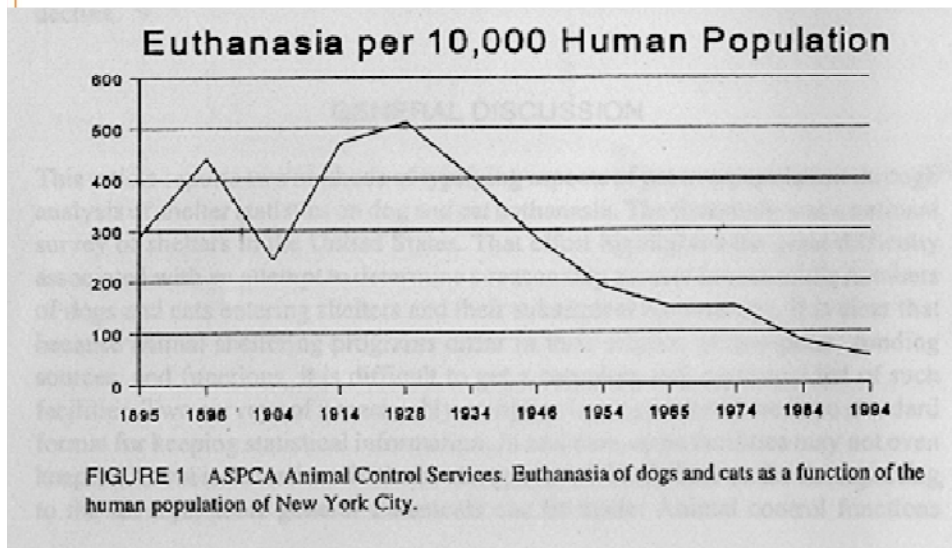
Very little changed in the sheltering world for the next century



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New York City Trend (1894-1994)

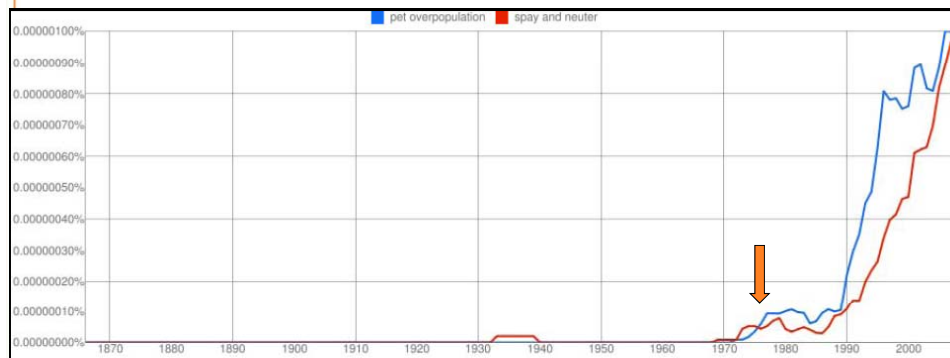


Euthanasia – How Many?

- Little mention of numbers until the late 1960s – 70s.
- Even humane group pet care books covered spay/neuter as a convenience – not as a key to manage pet overpopulation



Pet Overpopulation and Spay/Neuter



Euthanasia

How?

How Many?

Why?

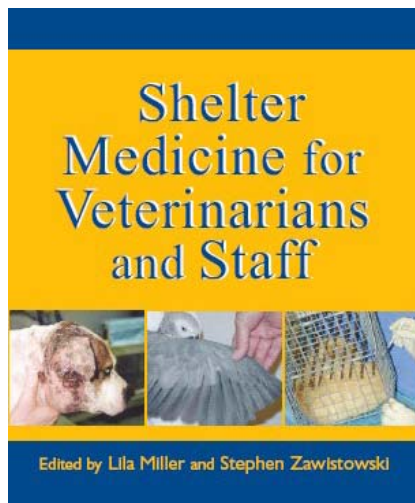


WHY? No Kill Arrives

- 1989 – Ed Duvin publishes “In the Name of Mercy”
- 1989 – San Francisco SPCA gives up animal control contract



Animal Shelter Changes



- Spay/Neuter Programs
- Adoption outreach
- Behavior Programs
- Veterinary Forensics
- Shelter Medicine



New Developments

- Re-energized animal protection movement in the 1960s and '70s
 - Greater activism – similar to the post-Civil War era
 - Development of the modern animal rights movement



Formation of New Groups

- 1951 – Animal Welfare Institute
- 1954 – Humane Society of the United States
- 1967 – Fund for Animals
- 1980 – People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals



Animal Rights Philosophy

Utilitarian

- Peter Singer (1975)
- Extension of Jeremy Bentham
- Reduce suffering and increase opportunities for pleasure or well-being

Moral Rights

- Tom Regan (1983)
- Extension of Immanuel Kant
- Limits on individuals to benefit others – animals have a moral right to not be harmed



Additional Thoughts

- Gary Francione – *New Welfarism*
– Efforts to improve conditions thwart abolition
- Matthew Scully (2002) – *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy*
– A more traditional call for better treatment of animals based on stewardship



Coming Attractions from ASPCApro.org

www.aspcapro.org/webinars

- 8,977 More Lives Saved! (Jan 25)
- Life Saving Tips for Small Shelters
Featuring Greater Androscoggin Humane Society
(Feb 8)
- Life Saving Tips on Community Engagement
Featuring Humane Society for Greater Savannah
(Feb 15)

