

Should animals in nature be considered wild or tame?

Katy Overstreet

Assistant Professor, The Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen

November 10th, 2021



Photo by Inger
Anneberg

'Wild' and 'Domesticated'

WILD

- Outside of human control and human care
- Self-regulating
- Disordered/uncivilized
- Populations (to some extent)



DOMESTICATED/TAME

- Subject to human control
- Brought into the domus
- Ordered/civilized
- Individuals (to some extent)



Domestication is...

- Multidirectional
 - Domestic reindeer may join up with wild herds (Anderson 2000), Mongolian domesticated horses bred with wild (Fijn 2011, 2015)
- Multiple
 - Independently in different places with different outcomes
- Mutual
- Gradual
- Not always as controlled as it may seem (involves unintended transformations)

(see Swanson, Lien, Ween 2018)



Margins of Domestication

Eider duck houses, eider tending

Photos: Birgitta Berglund and verdensarvvega.no



Categorical confusion

aka Matter out of Place



- Using animals understood as domestic in rewilding projects obscures the common sense understanding of:
 - The human-animal relation (are they pets? Are they tools? Are they livestock? Are they wild? Are they semi-wild?)
 - The responsibilities of humans involved (what level of care should they receive? Should they be protected from starvation? Should they have hoof care? Should they have veterinary intervention and if so, when and when not?)
 - What kinds of interactions are possible (should they be fed or not fed? Should they be petted? Should they be friendly and acclimated with humans, dogs, etc.?)

Domestication as Disorientation

Heather Swanson, 2018



Photo: hatcheryinternational.com and Getty

'I propose that we might reimagine *domestication* as a process of *disorientation*, a process of disrupting humans' and nonhumans' ties to landscapes to make the *domus* central to their worlds'

(2018:152)



Florida Cracker Cattle



Photos courtesy of libestockconservancy.org

Hefted sheep



Photo by Kenneth Olwig 2013

Thank you!

Katy Overstreet
Assistant Professor, The Saxo
Institute
University of Copenhagen
kkoverst@ucsc.edu



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