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**ABSTRACT**

Animals had great significance in Roman life, mainly as a source of food. They also provided means of transport, power for running equipment such as mills or ploughs, were pets, but also hunted down in the amphitheatre, and not least, were an important part of Roman religious ceremonies. This talk will assess the place of animals in Roman life, by exploring the following questions: Were they well treated? How do they rank alongside slaves in terms of their status? What was the ecological effect of Roman exploitation of animal resources? How important was Roman religion in animal/human interaction? In attempting to answer these questions, the archaeological and scientific evidence from animal bones will be highlighted, especially new insights gained from recent research.