

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Protecting Animals

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS, 6 - 9 JULY 2026

*Session(s)  
sponsored by:*

**Medieval Animal  
Data-Network  
(MAD)**

From the very earliest days of domestic animal-human interactions, people have protected and been protected by animals. In paleolithic times dog domestication took form over millennia through the attraction of greater accessibility of food for local wolf populations around human settlements while, at the same time, less aggressive animals could get closer to the humans around them to develop into hunting partners and guard animals. The very early use of animal body parts, representing the actual and ascribed characteristics of both wild and domestic animals, shows how complex these notions of mutual protection must have been. By medieval times, many of these mutual protective functions became codified in texts, images and long-held visual and written tropes. In this session the speakers will explore the complexities and medieval manifestations of these protective human-animal relationships.

**Potential themes include (but are not limited to):**

- ❖ Animals as companion pets.
- ❖ Animals care in hunting manuals.
- ❖ Animals kept carefully for pleasure (riding) and status markers (raptors, horses, dogs, cheetahs etc.)
- ❖ Animals and veterinary treatments, traditions of veterinary medicine.
- ❖ Animals protected into old age beyond their functional usefulness.
- ❖ Animals used in shepherding and as guarding or attack animals (even beyond dogs).
- ❖ Ascribed characteristics of both wild and domestic animals that make their body parts good as protective amulets (coral, astragalus, tusks, teeth, claws etc.)

### SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Please send a title and abstract of your paper (250-300 words), some keywords, and a short biography with your precise name, affiliation, address and email to Alice Choyke (choyke@ceu.edu) by **Wednesday, September 10th, 2025**, at the latest.

