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Attitudes toward Animals among German Children and Adolescents

Authors: Binngießler, Janine; Wilhelm, Christian; Randler, Christoph

Source: [Anthrozoos: A Multidisciplinary Journal of The Interactions of People & Animals](#), Volume 26, Number 3, September 2013 , pp. 325-339(15)

Publisher: [Bloomsbury Journals \(formerly Berg Journals\)](#)

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Abstract:

This is the first study about attitudes toward animals among German children and adolescents. A sample of 543 pupils (261 boys, 282 girls) aged 11 to 17 (mean age = 13.37 ± 2.01 years) completed a questionnaire based on different established scales, for example, the Animal Attitude Scale (AAS) and the Intermediate Attitude Scale (IAS). Several aspects of attitudes toward animals and various dimensions of human–animal relationships were measured, including gender, age, grade, pet ownership, animal-related activities, meat consumption, and fear of and disgust toward animals. Gender and age were important factors in determining attitudes toward animals: pro-animal attitudes decreased with age and girls showed more positive attitudes compared with boys. Pet ownership and animal-related activities were associated with more positive attitudes toward animals, whilst meat consumption was related to lower pro-animal attitudes. There were no correlations between fear and general attitudes toward animals. The correlations between disgust and attitudes toward animals were weak. We found significant correlations among the different scales and subscales in animal attitudes.

Keywords: [ADOLESCENTS](#); [ANIMALS](#); [ATTITUDES](#); [CHILDREN](#); [GERMANY](#)

Document Type: Research Article

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2752/175303713X13697429463475>

Publication date: 2013-09-01

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