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## Cats, a survey of their relationship to humans from their first encounter to the present day

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### Abstract:

Il rapporto tra i gatti e gli esseri umani è iniziato nell'antico Egitto, dove i gatti avevano una divinità ad essi dedicata. Dall'Egitto essi si diffusero in tutto il mondo e, attraversando fasi alterne di amore e odio, sono giunti fino ai nostri giorni. Questa tesi si propone di analizzare i vari stadi di questo rapporto, soprattutto in ambito europeo, e mostrare in che modo le due parti in causa si siano costantemente influenzate a vicenda.

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The modern day cat was permanently domesticated about 4000 years ago, in Egypt; but archaeologists say it may have been closer to 12,000 years ago. The cats found their way into southeastern Europe before the onset of farming in the Neolithic. Several strands of data indicate that cats were present in Egypt as early as the predynastic period, nearly 6,000 years ago. A cat skeleton discovered in a predynastic tomb (ca. The first illustration of a cat with a collar appears on an Egyptian tomb in Saqqara, dated to the 5th dynasty Old Kingdom, ca 2500-2350 BC. By the 12th dynasty (Middle Kingdom, ca 1976-1793 BC), cats are definitely domesticated, and the animals are frequently illustrated in Egyptian art paintings and as mummies. Fifteen minutes later, the cats were tested on their ability to remember which bowl they had eaten from and which remained untouched. The team found the cats could recall what they ate and where, suggesting they had episodic memory. The scientists also said that cats were as good as dogs on a whole variety of mental tests, including responding to the gestures, facial expressions and emotions of humans. Researcher Saho Takagi told reporters that she believed cats think about past events similar to the way humans do. She said: " An interesting speculation is that they may enjoy actively rec Humans love to categorize. As soon as a baby is born, our first question is often whether the baby is a boy or a girl. Are you a night owl or a lark? Are you a Republican or a Democrat? For example, some of the questions on surveys measuring pet attachment may be biased. In general, people report getting more social support from their dogs than cats. At the same time, people claim to have more negative interactions with their dogs than cats, so perhaps the expectations for affection that dog owners have can lead to greater frustration or disappointment in their pets. In my next and final installment of my series about Cat People, I'll talk about the present and future of our relationship with cats and what it means to be a cat person. Coming soon to The Dodo Our Shows.