

Historiographic Notes Chart – Jax Skorich

Author & Citation	Search Terms	Core Question	Thesis	Primary Sources Used	Gaps / Omissions / New Questions	Connections / Similarities / Differences	Relevance to Fictitious Researcher	Speculative Insight
Urban Reform & Public Health								
Andrew A. Robichaud, <i>Animal City: The Domestication of America</i> . Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019.	Human–animal relationships—History; Urban animals—History; Animal welfare—History.	How did 19th-century U.S. cities transform human–animal relationships through reform?	Cities expelled work animals and elevated pets, embedding regulation, sentiment, and modernity into urban life.	Municipal records, humane society reports, health archives.	Limited rural comparison; could expand to cultural symbolism.	Resonates with Wang on disease and Pearson on comparative dog histories.	Shows structural 'domestication' of city animals → foundation of pets-as-family.	Perhaps 'fur-babies' are only possible once urban infrastructures expelled livestock.
Jessica Wang, <i>Mad Dogs and Other New Yorkers: Rabies, Medicine, and Society in an American Metropolis, 1840–1920</i> . Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019.	Rabies—History; Public health—History; Dogs—History.	How did rabies shape governance and urban attitudes toward dogs?	Rabies outbreaks justified state intervention, redefining dogs from threats to regulated companions.	Health dept. reports, newspapers, veterinary records.	Focused on rabies, less on affectional practices.	Complements Robichaud; precursor to sentimental pets in Grier.	Medical fear catalyzed human redefinition of dogs as 'safe' family members.	Perhaps crises make the 'fur-baby' possible, not just love.

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Chris Pearson, <i>Dogopolis: How Dogs and Humans Made Modern New York, London, and Paris</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021.	Dogs—Social aspects—History; Urban history; Human–animal relationships.	How did dogs co-shape modern cities across transatlantic sites?	Dogs were urban actors, influencing policing, leisure, and family life.	Municipal records, cultural sources, police reports.	Heavy on cities; less on suburban expansion.	Pairs with Worboys (breeds) and Wang (disease).	Reinforces dogs as integral to modern identity.	Dogs shaped urban policies as much as affections.
Jennifer Mason, “Civilized Creatures.” <i>Journal of Social History</i> 49, no. 3 (2016).	Urban animals—History; Humane societies—History.	How did 19th-century reformers frame animal treatment in cities?	Reform and sanitation redefined animals from nuisances to moralized beings.	Reform tracts, municipal ordinances, press accounts.	Limited attention to owners’ perspectives.	Builds bridge between Wang and Robichaud.	Pets emerge from regulatory and moral discourses.	Perhaps 'fur-babies' are descendants of 'civilized' creatures.
Etienne Benson, “Urbanization of the Eastern Gray Squirrel.” <i>Journal of American History</i> 100, no. 3 (2013).	Urban wildlife—History; Squirrels—History.	How did squirrels become part of urban culture?	Deliberate introduction made squirrels emblems of civic sentiment.	City planning records, naturalist writings, press.	More on children’s relationships with squirrels needed.	Parallels with Wang on dogs as 'new' companions.	Shows how even wildlife was domesticated into urban family life.	Pets and wildlife blurred as cities curated affection.

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Pets & Domestic Culture								
Michael Worboys, Julie-Marie Strange, and Neil Pemberton, <i>The Invention of the Modern Dog: Breed and Blood in Victorian Britain</i> . Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018.	Dogs—History; Breeding—History.	How did Victorian Britain 'invent' the modern dog?	Breed culture naturalized class, gender, and imperial ideologies in dogs.	Kennel club records, breeding manuals.	British-only, less about U.S. parallels.	Pairs with Pearson's <i>Dogopolis</i> ; anchors pet culture shift.	Reinforces that 'fur-babies' are constructed, not natural.	Breed obsession made affection legible through science.
Ingrid H. Tague, <i>Animal Companions: Pets and Social Change in Eighteenth-Century Britain</i> . Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015.	Pets—Social aspects—History; Britain—18th century.	How did pet-keeping reflect broader 18th-c. British social change?	Pets mediated shifts in family, class, and gender roles.	Diaries, portraits, treatises.	Britain-focused; less about U.S. context.	Antecedent to Grier's U.S. study.	Pets entered domesticity before industrialization.	Pet care symbolized moral refinement.

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Hilda Kean, <i>The Great Cat and Dog Massacre: The Real Story of World War II's Unknown Tragedy</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017.	Pets—History; WWII—Britain.	How did WWII Britain redefine the human—animal bond?	Wartime euthanasia revealed fragility of sentimental pet bonds.	Humane society archives, diaries, press.	Limited to Britain; U.S. wartime stories absent.	Provides rupture point compared to Grier.	Challenges idea of 'fur-babies' as unbreakable.	Pets may always be contingent on crisis.
Katherine C. Grier, <i>Pets in America: A History</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.	Pets—History; Domestic culture—U.S.	How did pets become central to U.S. domestic life?	Consumerism and sentiment embedded pets in family life.	Material culture, letters, advertisements.	Pre-2015; doesn't address digital 'fur-babies.'	Influenced Wang and Robichaud.	Classic anchor for American pet historiography.	Consumer goods made pets kin.
Harriet Ritvo, <i>The Animal Estate: The English and Other Creatures in the Victorian Age</i> . Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987.	Animals—Social aspects—History; Britain—Victorian era.	How did Victorians embed animals into social order?	Animals reflected and reinforced class, empire, and gender hierarchies.	Parliamentary records, cultural texts.	Classic, dated; missing modern analysis.	Baseline for Worboys and Tague.	Anchor showing pets as moral symbols.	Class politics dictated animal meaning.

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Animal Agency, Labor & Empire								
Susan J. Pearson, <i>The Rights of the Defenseless: Protecting Animals and Children in Gilded Age America</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.	Animal welfare—History; Children—Protection—History.	How did animal/child protection merge in reform movements?	Humane societies constructed a shared discourse of vulnerability.	ASPCA records, reform pamphlets, law codes.	Less about pets' emotional lives.	Bridges reform with Robichaud's regulation.	Shows family protection extended to animals.	Pets became 'children' through law first.
Joshua Specht, <i>Red Meat Republic: A Hoof-to-Table History of How Beef Changed America</i> . Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019.	Cattle—History; Meat industry—History.	How did beef reshape U.S. economy and identity?	Cattle commodification remade landscapes, diets, and animal value.	Ranch records, corporate archives, legislation.	Food vs. pet distinction not explicit.	Counterpoint to Grier; animals as food vs. family.	Illuminates competing animal destinies.	'Fur-babies' emerge as opposite of 'meat animals.'

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Susan Nance, <i>Entertaining Elephants: Animal Agency and the Business of the American Circus</i> . Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.	Elephants—Entertainment—History.	How did elephants shape U.S. circus culture?	Elephants were agents in commercial entertainment.	Circus ledgers, advertisements, images.	Not about pets, but shows animals as spectacle.	Pairs with Pearson S. on agency in reform.	Demonstrates non-pet animal intimacy.	Animal agency shaped affection too.
Aaron Herald Skabelund, <i>Empire of Dogs: Canines, Japan, and the Making of the Modern Imperial World</i> . Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2011.	Dogs—Imperialism—History; Pets—Politics.	How were dogs used to articulate imperial power in Japan?	Dogs symbolized modernity and empire, bridging pets with politics.	Military records, visual culture.	Japan-focused; less comparative with U.S.	Expands Pearson's Dogopolis into empire.	Pets became emblems of national identity.	Pets are never just 'domestic.'

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Harriet Ritvo, 'On the Animal Turn.' Daedalus 136, no. 4 (2007).	Historiography; Human–animal relationships—History.	What does it mean to bring animals into historiography?	Historians must treat animals as central agents, not background.	N/A (review essay).	Programmatic, not empirical.	Contextualizes whole field.	Justifies your fictitious researcher's project.	The 'fur-baby' is the newest turn.