

The Ugly Frederick

Traumatic Aspects in the History of the Human-Dog Relationship

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Abstract

Protagoras postulated that “Man is the measure of all things”. The resulting hierarchy of living creatures has existed in a modified form until today. Animals are simply only imperfect humans, humans only imperfect gods. In the first place domestic animals bring man diverse benefits. In extreme cases they are a source of food and therapist in one “person”. Animals are, however, also dangerous. They can bite, strangle, scratch, pounce on someone, tread on someone ... This has not changed in the course of animal domestication.

No domestic animal was and is used in such a versatile way and is thus as vulnerable as the dog. Using the example of the dog, attempts are made to expose particularly drastic aspects in the history of the human-dog relationship, to pursue their historic roots and to trace their effective history. The past and present of this ambivalent relationship is displayed as a philosophy of ideas discussed in seven chapters, the headings of which speak for themselves.

When you consider the painting *Vivisection* by Emile Edouard Mouchy (1832) with the dog whining from pain on the post-mortem table and the already impatiently waiting next victim, then we had better called this

¹ This lecture was a scientific story of ideas concerning the history of the human-dog relationship and the contribution lived by many pictures which cannot be published here. The used literature is online available on my homepage <http://www.vethis.de/index.php?mensch-tier-beziehung>.

theme “*Trauma and Drama of quite an old relationship*”. But, let’s begin this philosophy for the time being right from the very beginning.

Chapter 1

From the wolf to the dog – Tim loves his master

The history of the dog starts with a defective dentition. One of the earliest proofs of this is a lower jaw half showing loss of premolars and shortening, found in a double grave from the Magdalenian period in Oberkassel near Bonn. This discovery dates back to the period of circa 12,000 B.C.

The dog was meat and fur provider, waste disposer, later on companion dog, guard dog, an animal used in transport, he was trained to smuggle and for many other tasks. – Unfortunately we do not know since when the dog has had to act as a partner substitute.

One thing is certain: man’s incarnation of the dog began to develop very early on with this bad dentition and also with its ADHD, its **A**ttention **D**eficit **H**yperactive **D**isorder, and indeed over varying intermediate stages, up to Rin Tin Tin who almost playfully replies to his fan post.

The close man-dog relationship from the very beginning is particularly clearly proved by a grave discovery in Ain Malaha in Israel. The left hand of the buried dead in a crouching position is lying on the body of a puppy. The burial dates back to circa 9,600 B.C.

Today this is completely different: dogs are no longer buried alongside but feature as mourning bereaved in death announcements. Here the dog Tim, the dead person’s dog, who is accepted as an equal member in the close group of mourners. (fig. 1)

As in other societies too, the young men in Athens practised animal fights in a playful manner. “*The youth of the Athenian high society*” loved these fights, “*the participants are dressed in coats, [...] and they sit on beautifully carved stools. The men wear fashionable short hair*”, as stated in art history. – Since then we have the first wicked Fredericks, and many more would follow them.

At all times and in all countries it was the tradition to generate aggressive breeds and types of dogs and to train them, not only for the fight “dog

Tim liebt seinen Herrn Tim loves his master

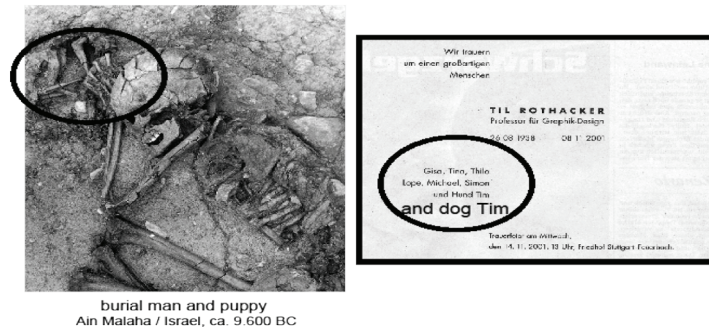


Fig. 1: Ancient burial and modern death announcement.

against bull”, but also for “dog against dog”, and “dog against bear”, bears which were usually chained. The problem today is well known to all of you: *“Hector has passed the ‘canine behavioral testing’ and is no longer a ‘dangerous dog’. Furthermore, he is pleased, of course ...”*

The young men of Athens, of course, had no idea where this development would eventually go, i.e. a time when dogs and cats have to consult psychiatrists. Aristotle, the founder of comparative ethology was not yet born, and therefore the young men only had their own powers of observation or they had the memory of the mythology, the most spectacular human misunderstanding in history was described. Aktaion surprises Diana and the nymphs bathing. Because the goddess is unarmed she sprinkles him with spring water and turns him into a stag (Ovid, Met III). – *“That I should not do”*, this insight comes Aktaion obviously too late. Aktaion’s dogs no longer recognize their master, they attack him, because he is a stag, and the dogs bite him dead. – Only Aktaion’s death removed the wrath of the goddess, and she is softened again.

Ethological trained kyniater, that is to say dog doctors with additional academic title, did not yet exist in Ancient Greece; there were only hippiaters, horse doctors. However, there were Peripatetics such as Plato and Aristotle. The development of the animal medicine was initiated by these peripatetic philosophers. Since Plato’s writings *“Timaios”* the animals were positioned in the status under man, since they neither have a psyche or soul, nor sanity. The initiator of these thoughts was, however, another

philosopher. It was Protagoras of Abdera, who coined the “*Homo-mensura-principle*”: “man is the measure of all things”.

Aristotle developed an animal hierarchy which exists today in a modified form and which was fateful for our profession as veterinarians: for in striving for perfection and esteem, human doctors, the half-gods in white can only be placed at this position in the hierarchy, between gods and men. I ask you, where should veterinarians find any space? That `s only possible one position lower, between men and animals. And that is our crux until today.

Chapter 2

On the field of honour – medics were made of Molossers

The employment of dogs in war-time has been traditional since Babylonian times. Trained war dogs were popular objects of prey, also after the Battle of Marathon. The desirous fighting look of the Celtic warrior and his dog on his right, a historicised depiction from 19th century speak for themselves.

In the 20th century the fight “dog against man” naturally no longer stood in the foreground, but the locating of mines, the delivery of messages and the searching for wounded became important (fig. 2). The Austrian messenger dog was perfectly equipped with protective clothing and gas mask, and in all armies teams of dogs pulled machine guns and lighter equipment. In Vietnam ca. 4.000 American dogs were employed, the German Shepherd being the preferred breed.

Gentle paramedics were made of murderous Molossers of once and when they were no longer operational at the front they became patient guide dogs for the blind. In the medical service the dogs were similar to hunting dogs who search wounded “animals”, but in a completely different environment, not in the peaceful forest, but on the enemy`s battlefield.

With the command “*Such verwund!*” (‘*search for wounded*’) the paramedic sent his four-legged friend off. If the search was successful the dog learnt to reply as follows: “*Verwund gefunden!*” (‘*Wounded found*’).

The result on the German side alone:

- 1914: 570 dogs in operation
- 1915: 2.500 dogs in operation

The balance in 1918:

- ca. 5.000 soldiers rescued
- ca. 7.000 dogs dead.

Aus Molossern wurden ...
Molossers changed to ...



Austrian messenger dog
World War I



British MG-Troop in Belgium
World War I



4.000 American dogs in Vietnam

Fig. 2: Dog helping man in war.

In the medical service of World War II the so called “Kamerad Bring-selverweiser” got a new important friend, the “Kamerad Essenholer”, the “Comrade Food Carrier”.

The military employment of dogs continued after 1945. A particularly memorable dog was the astronaut dog Laika – without a return ticket – in Sputnik II, 05.11.1957.

In Great Britain in 2004 a memorial was erected which remembers those “animals in war”, – also the dogs: the “ANIMALS IN WAR”– memorial at Park Lane, London, inaugurated in the presence of the Queen. “THEY HAD NO CHOICE” is recorded there.

From time to time one also remembers veterinary surgeons. On the 8th of August 2008 the barracks of the Service Dog School of the German army in Ulmen was named after a woman, the Berlin veterinary surgeon and resistance fighter Dr. Maria countess von Maltzan.

Countess von Maltzan helped more than 60 Jews to escape during World War II to Sweden and Switzerland. Her Jewish husband, Hans Hirschel, was in hiding in her house for three years. In 1987 she was given the honorary title "*Gerechte unter den Völkern*" ("*Righteous Among The Nations*") and her name is on the Wall of Honor in Yad Vashem.

Chapter 3

Plinius's fear of lyssa (rabies) – "Lyssa-Extractors" in Prussia

Aristotle writes in his *Historia animalium* that the three most important dog diseases are lyssa (canine madness), cynanche (severe obstructive laryngitis), and podagra (foot pain). 1.300 years later Avicenna wrote almost the same on parchment paper: rabies, squinantia (= strong pain in mouth and throat), podagra. Here, we cannot necessarily talk of progress in reasoning, but simply of an Aristotle's reception.

Let us pick rabies as an example, of which we have had a particular fear of since time immemorial. The behavioural changes and the lethal effect of the bite of rabies infected dogs and cats to humans have been known since antiquity, even though Aristotle had denied this transfer. The farmers and herdsmen, however, knew it better. Rabies-suspect or diseased wolves and dogs were rigorously pursued and killed.

Another way to protect yourself from dog biting was to call St. Walburga of Heidenheim. The abbess was the saint against dog bites in general. When traveling, it was customary to carry "Walburgisöl". The name Walburga's, incidentally has nothing to do with Midsummer and Walpurgis Night, but in Old High German it means "*the protection giving battlefield*".

In many churches and chapels one can also find votive images, Ex votos, alike the one in a chapel in Sarnen in Switzerland. These images were founded as an acknowledgment of deep gratitude when the person has survived the bite of a dog.

A sentence from Pliny the Elder was particularly fatal for the dogs themselves. Circa 65 A.D. Columella had merely recommended as a prophylaxis against rabies to dock the tail of a 40-day-old dog, but Pliny recommended that the lyssa be removed from young dogs. Lyssa is a small

string of connective tissue inside the tongue of dogs. Plinius wrote (Nat. hist. 29, 32):

“... est vermiculus in lingua canum qui vocatur a Graecis lytta,
quo exempto infantibus catulis nec rabidi fiunt nec fastidium sentiunt.”

The powerful effect of this recommendation was enormous as you can read in the “Vossische Zeitung”, a supraregional and reputable newspaper in Berlin. In the year 1769 the police directorate of the town intensely searched for a man who was able to resect the Lyssa of dogs for rabies prevention. In English the operation is called “worming” (fig. 3)

For centuries, bite prevention was identical to rabies prevention and it is so in less developed countries of Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America to this day. The history of rabies was surrounded by myths and superstitions. Fears and fantasies of people have been fuelled by the disease. On the same principle, for example, is rooted the belief that the origin of the werewolf lies in rabies disease in humans.

„Es wird ein tüchtiger und bescheidener Mann, welcher das Schneiden des sogenannten Tollwurms bey den Hunden versteht und deshalb gute Attesta beybringen kan, zum Wurmschneider in hiesigen Residenzien verlangt. Es empfängt selbiger inclusive des Scheins für jeden genommenen Tollwurm 3 Groschen. Wer dieses übernehmen will, kan sich deshalb auf der Polizey-verhörstube melden und nähere Anweisung gewärtigen.

Berlin, den 12. May 1769.

Königl. Preuß. Polizeydirektorium.
Kircheisen. Philippi.“

Fig. 3: Searching a “Lyssa-Extractor” in Prussia.

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Today it is completely different. In nations where the dog has long been a close family member, having made the way off the street to the couch and regularly being inoculated since 1885, bite prevention has taken on a completely different meaning: the prevention of injuries caused by dog bites within the family and in public. The newest program is the “Blue Dog”.

Chapter 4

Back from the boar hunt – wounded hunting dogs and nursing them



Gaston Phoebus
1343-1391



Fig. 4: Wounded hunting dogs. Gaston Phoebus: Livre de Chasse. 1410

Since ancient times hunting dogs were above all endangered during bear, sow or deer hunts. Wild boars were mostly killed with a boar spear after the dog had hounded and confronted them. For these heavy and valuable animals called “Saupacker” elaborate armour made of leather or strong linen were constructed which should protect them from the tusks of the wild boar.

The first pictorial images of dog diseases are come across in the High Middle Ages, in the region of Gascony, France. Gaston Phoebus compiled his famous “*Livre de chasse*” (“Book of the Hunt”, 1410). Under the supervision of a master eight dog handlers are each looking after a dog. Claw injuries, splinters in the pads, torsions and fractures belong to the most frequent injuries. (fig. 4)

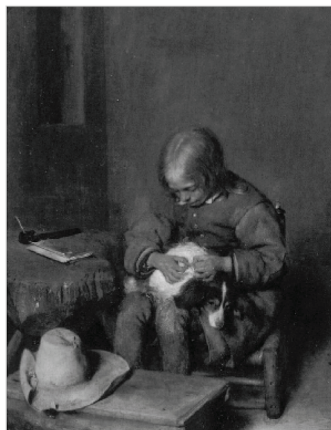
The dog on the left has actually got a thorn in his foot. Just look how he is suffering! Even a tear is running down his cheek. In such cases plasters and

also dusting powder was applied to soften the wound and then the splinter was pulled out.

All this was performed under the instructions of a dog groom, a nobleman, let`s call him therefore somewhat more elegantly a “*European Diplomat in Cynology*”. At first the teeth and the muzzle were examined, then it was the turn of the ears, which were frequently smitten with mange mites. When in contrast only fleas, lice or biting lice had to be treated then two methods of therapy were possible.

On the one hand we have the somewhat troublesome and time-consuming manual search for parasites as Gerard ter Borch (1617-1681) immortalised in his painting “A boy defleas his dog”. (fig. 5)

Ektoparasitenbekämpfung Ectoparasites Control



Gerard ter Borch
1617-1681

Ein Knabe floht seinen Hund
A boy defleas his dog
München, Alte Pinakothek

Fig. 5: Gerard ter Borch: A boy defleas his dog.

On the other hand there is, however, a much quicker and more elegant method, namely the so-called therapy treatment according to Wilhelm Busch which is quite simple. “In ein Faß voll Tobakslauge, / Tunkt man ihn mit Haut und Haar, / Ob er gleich sich heftig sträubte / Und durchaus dagegen war. // Drauf so wird in einem Stalle / Er mit Vorsicht interniert, / Bis, was man zu tadeln findet, / So allmählich sich verliert.” // (Wilhelm Busch, Story on Pater Filucius).

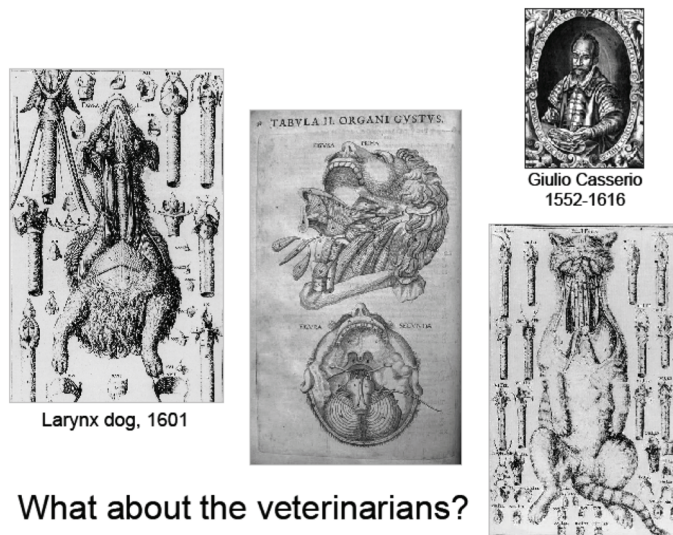
Just until this year 1872, when this poem was composed, the professional title “Tierarzt”, “Veterinarian”, was outlawed in Germany.

Chapter 5

In the service of science – the Führer’s victory over vivisection

From the early 17th century onwards the dog gradually became the classic laboratory animal in physiological experimental research. The reasoning was admittedly almost exclusively in the hands of physicians. The discovery of the circulation of blood by William Harvey (1619), but also Reinier de Graaf’s anatomical-physiological investigations into pancreas secretion (1664) were based mainly on dog experiments (Leiden 1677).

The cat also landed predominantly on the experimental and vivisectional table. Giulio Casserio’s comparable anatomy studies in Padua were classics, – here the larynx of a dog (on the left), human (in the middle) as well as of a cat and rabbit (on the right) from a 1601 edition. – Veterinarians are not yet visible. (fig. 6)



What about the veterinarians?

Fig. 6: Giulio Casserio: Larynx of dog, man and cat

A century later, the physiological experimental research also covered the horse. The English botanist, physiologist and clergyman Stephen Hales experimented with an apparatus for the quantitative measurement of blood pressure in the horse. Hales tried to find out, how high the blood rushing from the jugular vein in a thin glass tube bearing a level mark. His findings were published 1733.

At this time a counter-movement slowly began to grow: A contemporary of Stephen Hales was William Hogarth, born in 1697 in London. Hogarth, a painter and graphic artist was much interested in the social aspects of his time. In paintings and engravings he denounced the manners of his time relentlessly and with bitter irony. He was the first artist who has created an engraving series entitled "*The Four Stages of Cruelty*", and he also described this in the form of verses.

In the first stage of animal cruelty boys and young men are hanging a big bone on the tail of a dog, are hanging up cats in pairs or are burning out the eyes of birds. In the figure of the boy Tom Nero, the main character of this series, the torture reaches its climax, he introduces an arrow into a dog's anus. Another guy wants to dissuade Tom Nero from his cruel deed, he offers him a piece of cake.

The first stage of animal cruelty was performed by boys and young men, in the second stage adults are mistreating the animals and beating defenceless sheep, or beating a horse which is already on the ground with a broken metacarpal bone, because the carriage with four stout people and heavy luggage is hopelessly overloaded.

The third stage is *Cruelty in perfection*. Tom Nero is older now, he has led a life of debauchery and became rich at the expense of others. Now his brutality knows no further moral bounds. Tom Nero becomes a murderer. Made of pure avarice, he kills his business partner and lover Ann Gill, who is pregnant by him. With a slit throat she lies on the floor.

The reward of cruelty ("Lohn der Tierquälerei") is then the final. After a life full of cruelty to animal and man Tom Nero is dead and he is autopsied by a group of sadistic surgeons. Although he is dead, Tom seems to feel excruciating pain, and his heart is eaten by a dog, – a final symbolic act of revenge.

There were no veterinarians active in the early days of the animal welfare movement in England, but lawyers and philosophers such as Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), or later the aristocrat and leading feminist of her time, Frances Power Cobbe (1822-1904). She organized the first public campaign against vivisection, and in 1863 she published an essay entitled *“The Rights of Man, the Claims of Brutes”*. You might wonder again: and what about the veterinarians?

The veterinarians meanwhile had enough to do with the blood-letting and administering of daily enemas. *“La folie du Jour”*, the coloured etching from the Empire is titled, *“The madness of the day”*. Was the lady of the house well-cared for and happy, then the lap dog’s time came to get an enema (fig. 7 Veterinary History Museum Hannover). The recognized medical concept was the humoral theory, the four humours theory of blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm.

In Germany it took to the year 1933 when the veterinary surgeons were there, under the leadership of the later Reich Veterinarian Leader Dr. Friedrich Weber, graduate of the Munich faculty, leader of the Bund Oberland and close friend of Hitler.

The “Animal Welfare Act” of the 24th of November 1933 banned vivisection finally. Principal author of the text was not Weber, but Dr. Heribert Giese, veterinarian and ministry official in the Reich Ministry of the Interior.

“Der Führer ist ein großer Tierfreund, und seinem eigenen Innern entsprang die Initiative zu diesem Gesetz. Diesen Gedanken die rechte Bahn gewiesen zu haben, ist das Verdienst des Führers des Einheitsstandes der deutschen Tierärzte, Dr. Weber, der bei seinem Empfang im Sommer durch den Führer mit ihm die Tierschutzfragen besprach”, – so far the official comment. This should mean: animal welfare is a top priority, and the veterinary profession is officially represented and legitimized by its senior veterinarian Dr. Weber.

Some years later in the countryside unbelievable and yet real scenes took place similar to those hundreds of years earlier documented in the Swiss chronicle by Stump: the hanging of a Jew in 1553, together with two dogs which brutally maltreated the delinquent and thereby made everybody aware of the canine devotion of this man. In the light of this painting and



Fig. 7: "La folie du jour": Lapdog gets enema (caricature)

connection Mussolini's words "*Animal welfare is the utmost form of culture of mind of a people*" have a scornful effect. – But, things were different then.

Chapter 6

What we experienced as children – fairytales, stories and other traffic accidents

When Franz von Defregger painted this picture, dogs medicine was still in its infancy (fig. 8). We do not know the outcome of this scene, but Josef Griehl in his profession as a cattle doctor does not appear to be very excited about the visit of the small patient, since the first thing that immediately comes to mind when visually examining the dachshund is that he must undergo a stomach operation, and he had little practice at this. However, he recalls the tales of his mother.

And he recalls the first laparotomy ever with total gastric emptying in a member of the canidae. After the stomach wound had been stitched up

6. Was wir als Kinder erlebten – Märchen, Geschichten und andere Verkehrsunfälle
 What we experienced as children – fairytales, stories and other traffic accidents

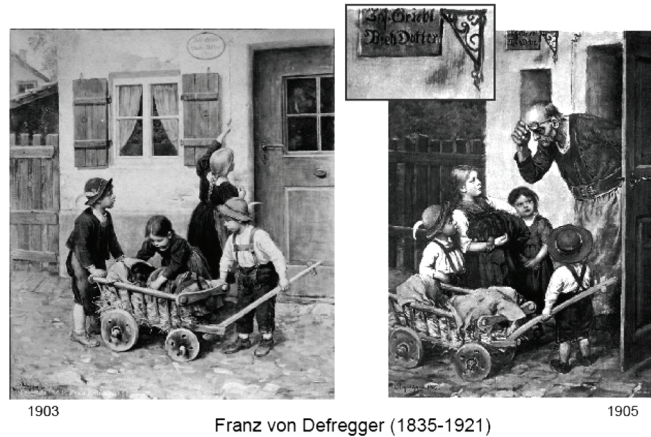


Fig. 8: Children and dog medicine.

properly and lege artis the stupid wolf actually drowned itself. As to whether it was the kids' mother or the experienced huntsman who managed to free the little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother by means of laparotomy from their awkward position is meaningless. In fairytales and children's stories a world of man-dog relationship is opened up containing dramatic aspects in abundance.

A classic incident was immortalised by Mark Twain the famous American author with Hans Stare-in-the-Air.

"Now when this lad to school did go,
 He never saw what's here below;
 His eyes were always in the sky,
 'Mong roofs and clouds and things that fly;
 He never saw, along the street,
 The common things about his feet,
 So people used to cry, "Ah, there!
 That is Hans Stare-in-the-Air!"
 There came a dog a-tearing by,
 Hans was gawking at the sky
 Just as ca'm
 As a ham –

No one warned him with a yell.
 What befell?
 Whack! Ker-blim! and down they go –
 Boy and doglet in a row!” (Mark Twain, 1891)

What is the result? Hans and the dog are staying in coma, and Hans has a severe craniocerebral injury.

And then at long last the story of the ugly or wicked Frederick, – ugly is the translation of the older German word “böse, garstig” by Mark Twain (fig. 9):

A dog stood drinking at a pump –
 The way he made that doglet jump!
 He sneaked upon him unaware,
 He whacked him here, he whacked him there,
 He whacked with all his might and main,
 He made him howl and dance with pain,
 Until, o’ercome by woe and grief,
 The dog, desiring some relief,
 Did bite that brutal boy full sore,
 Which made the latter prance and roar.
 And then the dog did grab the whip,
 And with it homeward he did skip. (Mark Twain 1891)

Die Geschichte vom bösen Friederich The Story of Ugly Frederick



Fig. 9: The story of Ugly Frederick.

In the legend of the dog as soul saviour, no whip, but a bloody human foot is dragged away by the watchdog. The relic of a blasphemer picking cherries who did not want to go on a pilgrimage to Freising in Bavaria can be viewed at the Sigismund altar in the Cathedral in this town. With this traumatic and dramatic action the farmer's dog saved the soul of its master. The whole story of this legend you can read in a book with the title "*Journey through the Bavarian district ...*" from the year 1789 (Lexicon of Bavaria, I., 634. Journey through the Bavarian district, Salzburg and Leipzig 1789, Page 79).

Chapter 7

Getting kicked, crushed, trodden on – the traumatised veterinary surgeon and his veterinary nurse

Alfred Wight alias James Herriot wrote in his book "Every Living Thing": "But it was indeed strange that I should be perpetually hard up. Siegfried and I had built up a good, successful practice. I worked nearly all the time, seven days a week, in the evenings and often during the night and it was hard work, too – rolling about on cobbled floors fighting with tough calvings to the point of exhaustion, getting kicked, crushed, trodden on and sprayed with muck." (Every Living Thing 2006, p. 26)

It is no longer the case today, and therefore we have to change the title of the chapter to: "*7. Bitten, scratched, disabled – the traumatised (female) veterinary surgeon and her veterinary nurse*".

For the veterinary profession has changed enormously from a gender point of view. The ideal male veterinarian doesn't exist anywhere. The ideal veterinarian of today is female and she treats small pets. The most popular course of studies for women has developed from the apprenticeship to a blacksmith who also undertook simple medical treatment or horse doctor of once upon a time.

Let us remain in the male domain of insurance German. The BGW, this is the "Employer's liability Insurance Association", wrote in 2000 that "The veterinary surgeon's most violent patient is the cat", and continued: "Out of 449 injuries registered in 1999 inflicted by animals 156 derive from cats. Dogs are scarcely more pleasant: they bit 105 times".

In January 2006 it was further stated: “77 % of most accidents of veterinary assistants occurring at the workplace are caused by animals – over half of these by cats. Dogs are not quite as unpredictable and are responsible for 22 per cent of the cases, followed closely by horses with 18 per cent.”

The most sensational thing of all still is: according to an announcement from 2004 “Veterinary surgeons and pest controllers are at the greatest risk of having an accident at the workplace”.

Now at the beginning of the 21st century as veterinarians being on the same level as pest controllers, who remove pests like roaches, rats, mice, spiders, ants and bedbugs, – with our own strength we cannot escape this dilemma. Only one thing can help: to fill up your glass with one of the original Munich strong beers, in the first instance a Triumphator for premedication and then a Salvator in introducing the level of tolerance, not intended for you in the auditory but for my Collega Proximus of today, for Piet I, whom I would like to thank very much for all his efforts.