

Human-Animal Studies Images

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Cat Imagery in the Suffrage Movement

Cats were a common symbol in suffragette imagery. Cats represented the domestic sphere, and anti-suffrage postcards often used them to reference female activists. The intent was to portray suffragettes as silly, infantile, incompetent, and ill-suited to political engagement.



Mocking anti-suffrage postcard



Reader: "We dont care if we never have a vote."

A project of Animals and Society Institute



Search This Blog

Subscribe To HASImages!

Posts

Comments

Follow by Email

Tags

advertising advice animals animal cruelty **animal** mind animal rights **Art** Asia Beef Buzzfeed **cats** Charismatic climate change companion animals cow cuteoverload dailybunny death disgust **dogs** dogshaming euthanasia heaven horse human-animal border human-animal relationship **Human-animal similarities** humor icanhascheezburger Insects **internet** introspection lolcat loyalty

reads. we don't care if we never have a vote.
Photo from the [Palczewski Suffrage Postcard Archive](#)



Mocking anti-suffrage postcard
Photo from the [Palczewski Suffrage Postcard Archive](#)

Another common theme in anti-suffrage cartoons and postcards was the bumbling, emasculated father cruelly left behind to cover his wife's shirked duties as she so ungracefully abandons the home for the political sphere. Oftentimes, cats were portrayed in these scenes as symbols of a threatened traditional home in need of woman's care and attention.



meat media meme pandas patriarchy
petting **photography** Pigs porn rabbits
Reddit religion ridicule sexuality shelter
slaughter slavery social construction
sociozoologic scale stray dogs taxidermy
theory of mind Turkeys Vietnam Wolves
women youth

Blog Archive

- ▼ 2013 (40)
 - ▼ May (2)
 - [The Social Construction of Cockroaches](#)
 - [Cat Imagery in the Suffrage Movement](#)
 - ▶ April (4)
 - ▶ March (5)
 - ▶ February (8)
 - ▶ January (21)

Popular Posts



[Cat Imagery in the Suffrage Movement](#)

Cats were a common symbol in suffragette imagery. Cats represented the domestic sphere, and anti-suffrage postcards often used them to ref...



[How to Pet a Dog/Cat/Rabbit](#)

In things about Internet animal humor is that beneath the humor is often a legitimate attempt to understand what is going on in ...

[A Dog Reacts to 2 Girls 1 Cup](#)

In 2007, one of the most popular viral videos of the year was called "2 Girls 1 Cup." It was a short trailer for a fetish porn fil...

HAS Resources and Blogs

[Animal Archives](#)

[Animal Emotion](#)

[Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies](#)

[Animals and Us](#)

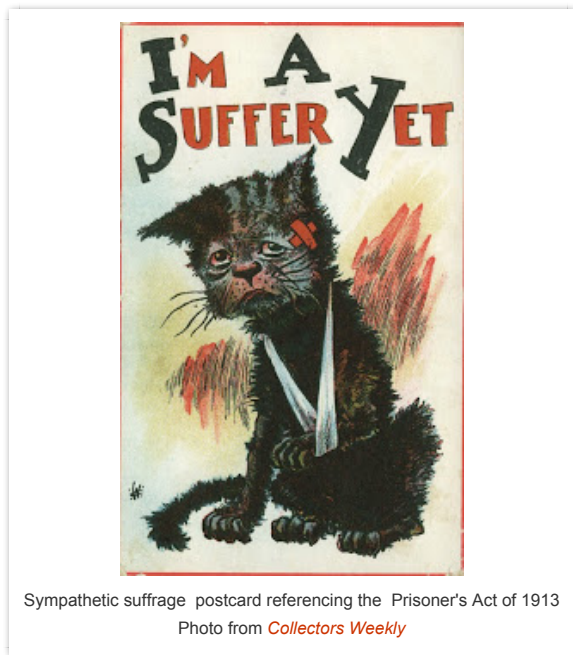
[ASI's Human-Animal Studies page](#)

[ASI's List of HAS Courses](#)

[ASI's Scholar Pages](#)



Public sentiment warmed to the suffragettes as police brutality began to push women into a more favorable, if victimized, light. As suffragettes increasingly found themselves jailed, many resisted unfair or inhumane imprisonment with hunger strikes. In response, jailers would often force-feed female prisoners with steel devices to pry open their mouths and long hoses inserted into their noses and down their throats. This caused severe damage to the women's faces, mouths, lungs, and stomachs, sometimes causing illness and death. The British government responded by enacting the Prisoner's Act of 1913 which temporarily freed prisoners to recuperate (or die) at home, at which time they could be rearrested. The intention was to free the government from responsibility of injury and death from force feeding prisoners. This act became popularly known as the "Cat and Mouse Act," as the government was seen as toying with their female prey as a cat would a mouse. Suddenly, the cat takes on a decidedly more masculine, "tom cat" persona. The cat now represented the violent realities of women's struggle for political rights in the male public sphere.



[Bear in Mind](#)

[HASCinema](#)

[HASResource](#)

[How We Look At Them](#)

[Human-Animal Studies Book Series](#)

[Human-Animal Studies Links](#)

[Practical Ethics](#)

[Teaching the Animal: Human-Animal Studies across the Disciplines](#)

[Why the Wild Things Are](#)

Become an ASI Scholar Member



Followers

Join this site

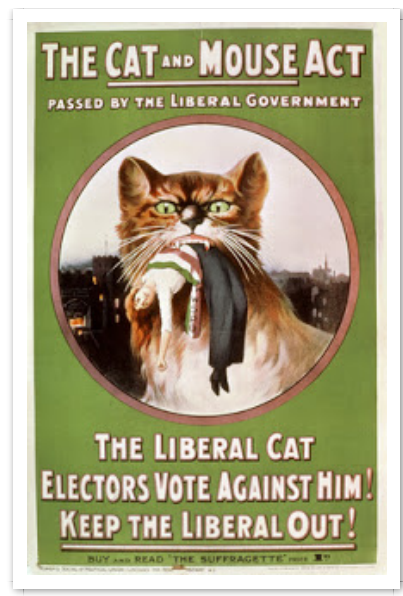
with Google Friend Connect



Members (5)



Already a member? [Sign in](#)



Posted by [Corey Wrenn](#) at 12:42 PM

+4 Recommend this on Google

Labels: [cats](#), [Human-animal similarities](#), [women](#)

Location: [Virginia, USA](#)

1 comment:



Debby Hanoka May 8, 2013 at 5:48 PM

Darn. I wish I had a photo of my Grandma's childhood pet, a Boston Terrier, holding a newspaper with the headline in 1920 that women now had the right to vote. My grandma was ten years old that summer. The dog was ... very spoiled.

[Reply](#)

Enter your comment...

Comment as:

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)