
Charles Georges Leroy and Enlightened Ethology

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Abstract

Charles Georges Leroy has been one of the forerunners of Ethology, in the XVIIIth C. Being a hunter and a keeper of the King's hunting domains in France, he did observe the behavior of several animals, both predators and their game. The thought we shared with non-Human animals the same sensibility. He tried to explain animal behavior based on our shared natural feelings. Some of his ideas may announce some of the principles of an evolutionary Ethology, like mate selection by females and territoriality. Leroy had a great influence in the XIXth C., especially in philosophers like Comte and others. His work must be reviewed according our actual knowledge on animal behavior.

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