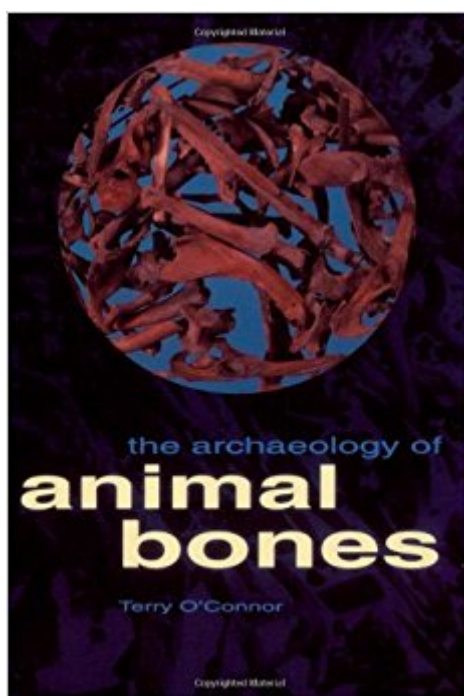


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The Archaeology Of Animal Bones (Texas A&M University Anthropology Series)



Synopsis

Animal ecologists can observe the present and reconstruct the last one or two centuries from historical sources, but the study of animal bones adds valuable insight into the peoples and landscapes of the past while telling much about the evolution of human-animal relationships. In this standard work, now available in paperback, O'Connell offers a detailed overview of the study of animal bones. He analyzes bone composition and structure and the archaeological evidence left by the processes of life, death, and decomposition. He goes on to look at how bone is excavated, examined, described, identified, measured, and reassembled into skeletons. The bulk of the book is devoted to the interpretation of bone fragments, which tell much about the animals themselves; their health, growth, diet, injuries, and age at death.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Terry O'Connell is Professor of Archaeological Science at the University of York. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a good starting point for those who are interested in zooarcheology to understand what the inherent issues are, where it is applicable and what kind of answers this type of research can help answer. Zooarchaeology is a fairly underresearched field and so there aren't many books that go into some detail specifically about it. This is a good start for people who have an active interest in it and already understand anthropology and some biology. Although no special background is needed

to benefit from the book, it is most helpful for those who are interested in pursuing this field further, and who need to get some answers from a researcher in that field, not just a general anthropologist. The bibliography in this book is also a very useful reference for those who want to get a good background foundation in zooarchaeology.

Great read if you want a basic outline of what zooarchaeology is.

I have once again ordered Terry O'Connor's excellent introduction to zooarchaeology as the primary text for my one semester long (13 weeks) course on zooarchaeology. While this is not a comprehensive guide to zooarchaeology, I believe it is the best introduction currently available for undergraduate students, for the following reasons: a. it covers a wide range of topics, including areas that might receive less coverage in most North American courses (e.g. analysis of complex urban economies) b. it uses examples from a variety of areas c. it is well written, with little use of jargon d. each chapter serves very well to introduce major topics in zooarchaeology; these can be supplemented by journal readings selected by the instructor to provide more detailed case studies for students to read e. it is reasonably priced

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