The animal goes by many names—beast, pet, guide, meat, creature, monster, being, family member. As such, animals activate different social, cultural and philosophical meanings about the world and our place in it. Is the expulsion of the wild animal from city settlements a mark of its nonhuman “otherness”? Is the domesticated pet or service animal a sign of our singular accomplishments and esteem as human beings? Is presence of the wild animal in nature and its connection to the landscape an expression of divine forces always at work, or perhaps a reminder of our evolutionary origins? Which responsibilities do we have to the animal world? COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 233: ANIMALS, BEASTS, & CREATURES is a special-session 8-week online course that explores these questions in relation to the animal’s body, its habits and habitats, and its connections to the human world. Our course texts tentatively include selected folk tales and fairy tales of Aesop, Hans Christian Andersen, the Grimm Brothers and Lafcadio Hearn; animal stories by Franz Kafka, Julio Cortázar, and Angela Carter; Art Spiegelman’s Holocaust-themed graphic novel Maus; and a selection of films, including Werner Herzog’s troubling documentary Grizzly Man, Alfred Hitchcock’s horror classic The Birds, Lasse Hallström’s coming-of-age Swedish drama My Life as a Dog, and Franco-Belgian animated feature Zarafa. We will also read essays by Michel de Montaigne, Giorgio Agamben, Jacques Derrida, Martin Heidegger, John Berger, Peter Singer, and Harriet Ritvo. Satisfies the GER [HU] and L&S International Studies requirements. No prior literature coursework or foreign language training required.