



Pets. Peasants lived and worked with animals, and they may have been fond of some of them (in particular dogs), but the animals were expected to work for a living and justify the food that it took to feed them. Pets, in the modern sense--animals that are kept in a household purely to enjoy their company--would only be held by the wealthy folks, and even there they would have been somewhat unusual.

History suggests that as far back as ancient Egypt, people kept pets their homes and made them a part of their family. Pets served a dual purpose in ancient times- they were able to provide companionship to their owners, and also to serve important working functions in the house.

Cats are said to have been the first animal domesticated by ancient Egyptians According to historical records, most cats were owned by women, and many cats were portrayed as domestic pets of these women.

Although cats were the first animal domesticated, history suggests that dogs were more highly revered in ancient Egypt than cats were. While there is only one historical record of a cat having a name in ancient Egypt, (its name was The Pleasant One) evidence suggests that many dogs were given names in ancient Egypt. In fact, many dogs were given human names and treated as members of the family. Pets were entombed with their owners in the owner's coffins. They were considered important enough to go to the afterlife with their owners.

Gazelles and monkeys were too unusual pets that were domesticated in ancient Egypt. They were kept in the homes, and monkeys were walked on leashes and trained to perform to entertain their owners. Monkeys were often dressed up as well, and in some cases monkeys who belonged to rich owners were even given their own gold jewelry to wear.