

Walking Tour Stops

1 Who is Welome?

Location: Mitchell Hall

This is the location of the Accessibility Office, with its mandate for campus inclusion. Who is welcome on campus? Some animals, like support dogs, are explicitly welcomed; others, like companion dogs, are explicitly excluded. Why?

2 Bird Strikes

Location: Arch St. at Union St.

Look up at all the glass on campus buildings. Window collisions cause around 1700 bird deaths on main campus each year. Prompted by student research into the problem, the University is taking steps to mitigate the threat using deterrent window film (which is demonstrating an excellent success rate so far). What other challenges does campus life pose to animals?

3 Dairy School

Location: Corner of Clergy St. & Barrie St.

Sometimes animals are made invisible by time. 200 years ago there were hundreds of cows in what is now downtown Kingston. In fact, we're standing at the site of Queen's and Ontario's first ever Dairy School. What other animals might once have lived on campus?

4 Animal House

Location: Behind Queen's University Archives

Exploiting animals for education/research has a long history at Queen's. We are standing where the original 'Animal House' used to be. Here, during WW2, rabbits were gassed to test the effects of exposure. What other experiments were conducted here?

5 Pest Control

Location: Fifth Field Co. Lane

Can you spot Abell Pest Control poison bait boxes around the base of any campus buildings? So-called 'pest' animals are ruthlessly eliminated, even though human behaviour is often the problem. Are there better ways of dealing with human-animal conflict and co-existence?

6 Squirrel Nation

Location: Summerhill Lawn

This is a squirrel hot spot, but these highly visible campus residents remain invisible in terms of policy accommodations. Why do they gravitate to campus? Could we improve campus life for them?

7 Chimney Swifts

Location: Fleming Hall

Chimney swifts are a threatened species. A dwindling number nest each spring at Fleming Hall. They have been actively accommodated on campus through the preservation and construction of suitable nesting chimneys. Why do we wait until animals are threatened before learning to be good neighbours?

8 Eating Animals

Location: Mac-Corry Cafeteria

Animals consumed for food represent the biggest group of animals on campus, despite the availability of delicious and nutritious alternatives offered by Hospitality Services. Have you checked out plant-based alternatives on campus (<https://dining.queensu.ca/vegan-options/>)?

9 BooHoo the Bear

Location: Tindall Field

Tindall Field was the original location of Richardson Stadium. From the 1920s-50s Queen's athletics used a succession of live bears as a mascot. 'BooHoo' spent much of the time chained and confined in dismal conditions. What were they thinking?

10 Experimentation - Transparency

Location: LaSalle Hall

For many years this building was home to a colony of dogs used for cardiovascular and neuroscience experiments. This research was shut down by the provincial inspector for gross welfare violations. Why are animal welfare reports and research protocols no longer available to the public?

11 Experimentation - Ethics and Science

Location: Botterell Hall

Biomedical animal experimentation is now consolidated behind a high security apparatus in Botterell Hall. Queen's uses over 20,000 animals per year, including mice, fish, cats, and pigs, as well as dogs and monkeys who spend their lives in basement level 2. Why does harmful research using outdated animal models persist?

12 Displaying Animals

Location: Earl Hall & BioSciences Complex

Over the years, many live animals, as well as taxidermy and skeletons have been displayed in the Biosciences Complex for entertainment and 'enlightenment'. Two live squirrel monkeys were removed in 1989 after animal advocates complained, and a resulting inspection forced closure of the exhibit.

13 Adoption

Location: Summerhill Lawn

As we end our tour in view of Botterell Hall where so many animals die, can we imagine a better future? What if Queen's had taken up the offer to establish an adoption centre for animals used in research, as petitioned by 1500 members of the Queen's community in 2015?

14 Alternative Research

Location: Summerhill Lawn

Or imagine if Queen's hadn't turned down a 2015 mega donation to establish a Centre for Alternatives to Animal Research because it 'didn't want to upset animal researchers?' (Luckily University of Windsor leapt at the opportunity: <https://www.uwindsor.ca/ccaam/>)

15 Animal Advocate

Location: Summerhill Lawn

Maybe it's time to repurpose one of these buildings in the heart of campus to house the office of the Queen's animal advocate. Someone who could represent animals' interests and promote animal-friendly policies across all the themes explored in this tour. Wouldn't it be great to have someone representing animals' interests, and promoting animal-friendly policies across the many issues explored in this tour?



A Multispecies Walking Tour

Join us for an exploration of human-animal relations
at Queen's University



0 50 100 Meters

Lake Ontario

