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Note generali	Text translated by Richard Jemmett. Translation of: La cause animale. Essai de sociologie historique (1820-1980).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. A long and complex struggle -- 2. Noble gentleness, vile cruelty -- 3. To act as an enlightened philosopher -- 4. To enlighten the ignorant, to refine the barbarian -- 5. "Us," the animals and "them" -- 6. The rise in the power of tenderness -- 7. (Animal) victims and social domination -- 8. A decreasingly "wild" nature.
Sommario/riassunto	Since the early nineteenth century, numerous campaigns have denounced the mistreatment of animals. This book compares the British and French histories of the animal-protection movement to retrace its origins and impact up to the present day. As Christophe Traini shows, the struggle for animal rights - inextricably linked to the rise of philanthropy and established long before the birth of the ecology movement - developed out of several important social and political processes, including changes in sensibilities and socially approved emotions, new definitions of what constitutes legitimate violence, and the influence of religious beliefs.