

Healing Charms and Healing with Animals

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According to Katharina Leibring (2016), more special animal studies have been carried out in Scandinavia and Eastern European countries (Sweden: Leibring 2013, Kalske 2005, Germany: Nübling 2012, Austria: Reichmayr 2005, 2015). In addition to linguistic research, branches of zooanthropology and zoofolkloristics developed as independent directions in Eastern and Southern Europe, including among Finnic-Ugric peoples (e.g. Gura 1997, 2006, Vinokurova 2011, Popova 2023, Lobanova 2023, Snoj 2023, Babič 2022, Golež Kaučič 2018, 2024, Toncheva 2022, Marjanič et al. 2007, 2022). More recently, attitudes with a folkloric, anthropological or ecological approach have been published in the USA (Thompson 2018, 2021), England, China and other Asian countries, with the view extended to indigenous peoples with a small number of language users and rich Asian cultures that have stayed away from observation. We have observed the healing of animals with charms and healing people with animals in Finnic-Ugric traditions. We ask the following questions: What species of animals were used in the healing rituals? What patterns of charming are manifested in our subject matter? What kind of knowledge is there behind the folk veterinary?

The research is based on quantitative as well as qualitative research methods; a qualitative analysis was carried out using folkloristic methods.