Unicorn Meat

A historic Ethereum Foundation token from March 2016

The Origin Story

Unicorns 🦄

In February 2016, half a year after mainnet launch, the Ethereum Foundation (EF) launched an initiative to raise funds to support development. EF leader [Alex Van de Sande](#) (Avsa) deployed two contracts to facilitate donations: The [Foundation TipJar](#) and [Unicorns $🦄](#), a 0-decimal non-standard ERC-20.

Here is how it worked: Upon donating 2.014 $ETH (~$20 at the time) to the TipJar, the TipJar mints and transfers 1 Unicorn to your wallet. Avsa added donation instructions on [Ethereum.org](#) and to date 2,717 have been created.

Avsa later [increased the price](#) of a Unicorn to 42,329 $ETH, a "beeple" after the sale price of "Everydays: the First 5000 Days."

Also, donating might get you a unicorn. As a playful way to thank the donors, we created a token on the ethereum blockchain called the "Unicorn". Any donation over 2.014 ethers will trigger the creation of a brand new unicorn that will be automatically sent to the donor. The unicorn token can be used as any other token: it can be sent to friends or to other wallets and can be used with other ethereum contracts.

ETHER DONATIONS

Foundation Tip Jar

0xfB6916095ca1df60bB79Ce92cE3Ea74c37c5d359

For information about tax exemptions and for larger donations, contact us

BITCOINS DONATIONS

39BaMQCphFXyYAvcoGpeKtnptLJ9v6cdFY

Bitcoin donations are unfortunately not eligible for unicorns and are not tracked by the donation DAO.
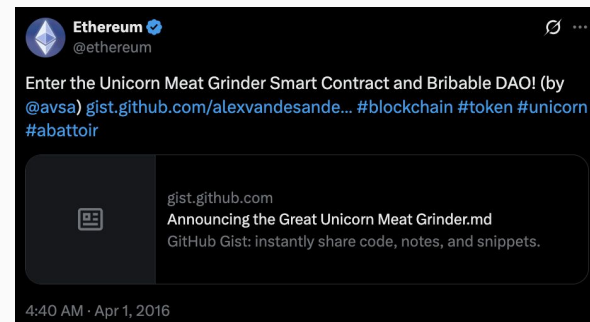
The Origin Story
Unicorn Meat 🍖

A month after creating Unicorns 🦄, Avsa deployed a [Unicorn Meat Grinder Association](#) DAO allowing any Unicorn holder to "grind" Unicorns for a new [Unicorn Meat](#) 🍖 token, a 3-decimal non-standard ERC-20.

Unicorn Meat [was created to demonstrate](#) several on-chain firsts: a DAO with quadratic voting, token swaps, and token upgrades/mutations. Unicorns and Unicorn Meat are the only coin tokens ever created and [announced](#) by Ethereum, and likely the first on-chain April Fool's Joke (even if partially a joke).

Only 7 Unicorns have been ground, making ~9,000 Unicorn Meat.

Ethereum ✓
@ethereum

Enter the Unicorn Meat Grinder Smart Contract and Bribable DAO! (by @avsa) gist.github.com/alexvandesande... #blockchain #token #unicorn #abattoir

gist.github.com
Announcing the Great Unicorn Meat Grinder.md
GitHub Gist: instantly share code, notes, and snippets.

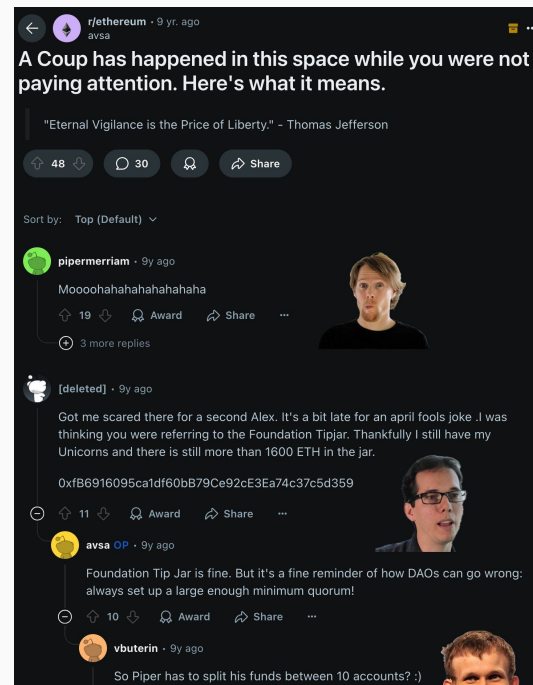4:40 AM · Apr 1, 2016

The Origin Story

Unicorn Meat 🍖 Takeover

A week after the Unicorn Meat announcement, Piper Merriam, a core developer of Ethereum, passed a DAO proposal to [take control of the DAO contract](#) and take 5 ETH for themself. Hilarity and jokes ensued, as Avsa, Piper, Vitalik, and the community laughed about the "coup."

In July 2025, a Unicorn holder followed Piper's steps and [passed a proposal](#) to transfer ownership of the Unicorn Meat 🍖 token, [minted](#) a supply of 100M, [renounced](#), and [wrapped](#) the token to be tradable.

Since then, the small team has been focused on developing to pick up where Avsa left off, improving the grinder DAO and launching the Unicorn Killers Hall of Fame.

r/ethereum · 9 yr. ago
avsa

A Coup has happened in this space while you were not paying attention. Here's what it means.

"Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty." – Thomas Jefferson

⬆ 48 ⬇   💬 30   Share

Sort by: Top (Default) ▾

pipermerriam · 9y ago

Moooohahahahahahahaha

⬆ 19 ⬇   Award   Share

3 more replies

[deleted] · 9y ago

Got me scared there for a second Alex. It's a bit late for an april fools joke .I was thinking you were referring to the Foundation Tipjar. Thankfully I still have my Unicorns and there is still more than 1600 ETH in the jar.

0xfB6916095ca1df60bB79Ce92cE3Ea74c37c5d359

⬇ 11   Award   Share

avsa OP · 9y ago

Foundation Tip Jar is fine. But it's a fine reminder of how DAOs can go wrong: always set up a large enough minimum quorum!

⬇ 10   Award   Share

vbuterin · 9y ago

So Piper has to split his funds between 10 accounts? :)

Unicorn Meat 🍗 Timeline

Jul 2015 - Avsa helps launch Ethereum

Nov 2015 - Avsa helps create MistCoin and the first standard tokens

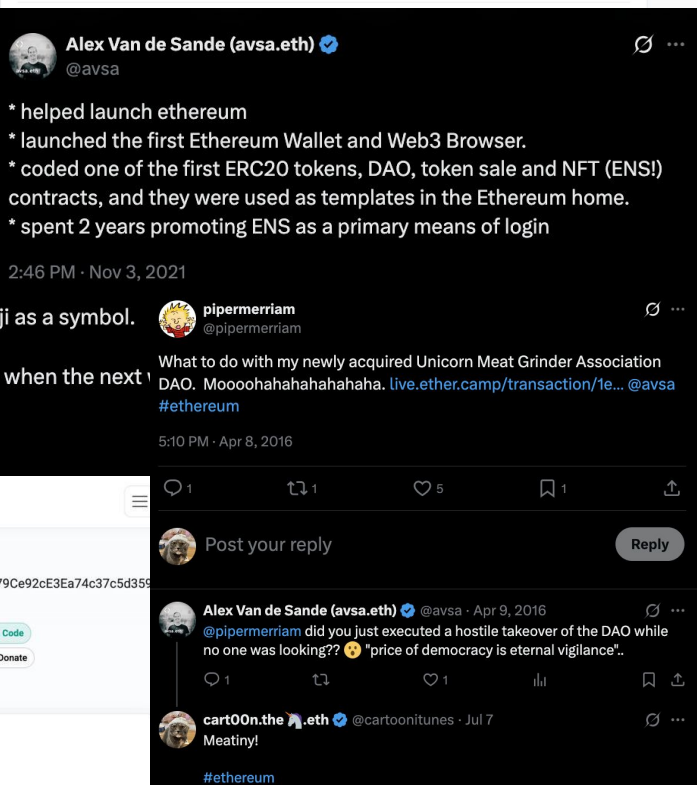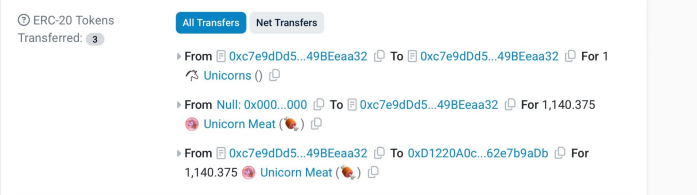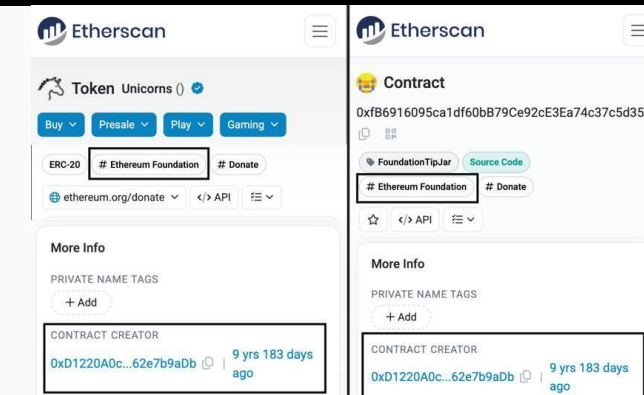Dec 2015 - Avsa creates the Doge-Eth Bounty to fund a Doge bridge
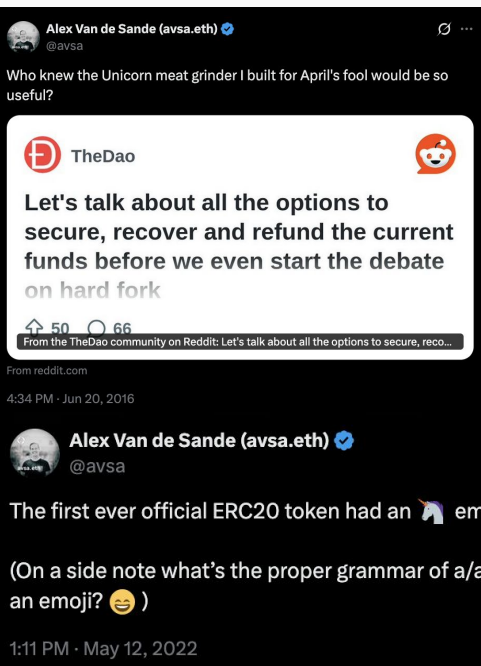
Feb 2016 - EF (Avsa) creates Foundation TipJar and Unicorns

Mar 2016 - Avsa creates Unicorn Meat

Apr 2016 - Piper takes over the Unicorn Meat Grinder Association

Jun 2016 - Avsa sites the Unicorn Meat Grinder as helpful in solutioning during the DAO hack

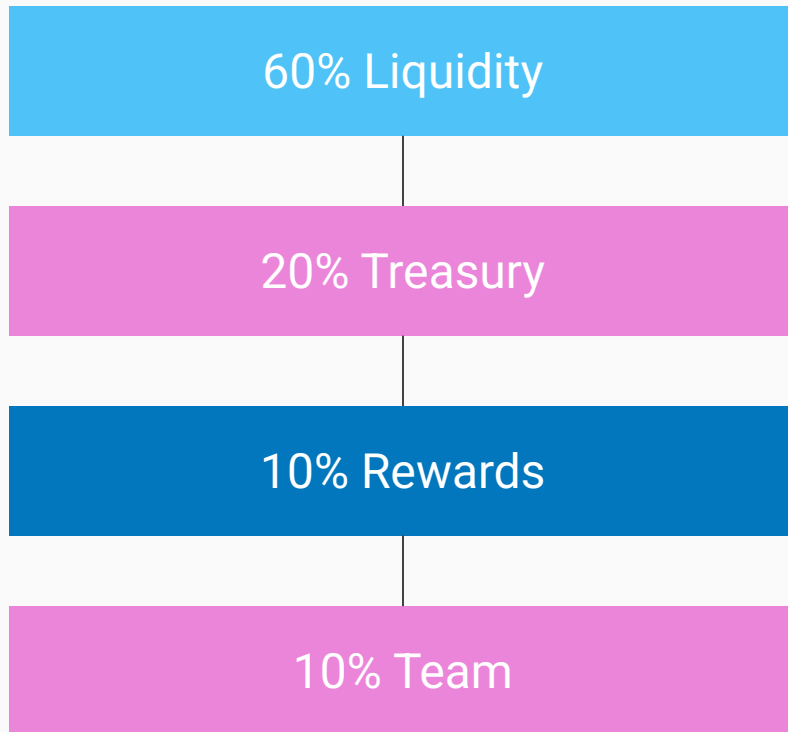Jul 2025 - webtrue.eth takes over the Unicorn Meat token and makes it collectible

Meatonomics

- Total Supply: 100 million
- Contract Renounced
- No presales, one-sided LP launched at ~$250k mcap
- LP: 40% on L1 and 16% on Base (4% in Base if needed)
- ETH LP locked
- 10% Airdropped to Unicorn holders and OG Unicorn Meat grinders
- Team allocations vested over years

Website
CoinGecko
Dextools

60% Liquidity

20% Treasury

10% Rewards

10% Team

Tokens made BY

ethereum

MistCoin
Nov 3, 2015
ETH: $0.90

Unicorns
Feb 11, 2016
ETH: $6.38

Unicorn Meat
Mar 24, 2016
ETH: $11.13

Devcon2
Nov 16, 2016
ETH: $10.01

Ten Years Of Ethereum
Jul 29, 2025
ETH: $3,793.46

coingecko

$6K
$5K
$4K
$3K
$2K
$1K
$0

Oct '15   Oct '16   Oct '17   Oct '18   Oct '19   Oct '20   Oct '21   Oct '22   Oct '23   Oct '24   Oct '25

Ethereum Foundation Tokens