



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

39BaMQCphFxyYAvcoGpeKntptLJ9v6cdFY

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.

The screenshot shows a Reddit post from the r/ethereum subreddit. The post was made 9 years ago by user avsa. The title of the post is "A Coup has happened in this space while you were not paying attention. Here's what it means." Below the title is a quote: "Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty." - Thomas Jefferson. The post has 48 upvotes and 30 comments. It includes a reply from user pipermiriam, a profile picture of a man with blonde hair, and a reply from user [deleted]. There are also replies from users avsa and vbutterin.

avsa · 9 yr. ago
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

Sort by: Top (Default)

pipermiriam · 9 yr. ago
Mooooohahahahahaha
19 Award Share ...
3 more replies

[deleted] · 9 yr. 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 · 9 yr. 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!

vbuterin · 9 yr. 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

Alex Van de Sande (@avsa.eth) @avsa
Who knew the Unicorn meat grinder I built for April's fool would be so useful?

The Dao
Let's talk about all the options to secure, recover and refund the current funds before we even start the debate on hard fork
From reddit.com
4:34 PM · Jun 20, 2016

Alex Van de Sande (@avsa.eth) @avsa
* helped launch ethereum
* launched the first Ethereum Wallet and Web3 Browser.
* coded one of the first ERC20 tokens, DAO, token sale and NFT (ENS) contracts, and they were used as templates in the Ethereum home.
* spent 2 years promoting ENS as a primary means of login

2:46 PM · Nov 3, 2021

The first ever official ERC20 token had an emoji as a symbol.
(On a side note what's the proper grammar of a/an when the next emoji? 😊)

1:11 PM · May 12, 2022

Etherscan
Token Unicorns (0)
Buy Presale Play Gaming
ERC-20 # Ethereum Foundation # Donate
ethereum.org/donate API
More Info PRIVATE NAME TAGS + Add
CONTRACT CREATOR 0xD1220A0c...62e7b9aDb 9 yrs 183 days ago

Etherscan
Contract 0xB6916095ca1df60bB79Ce92cE3Ea74c37c5d359
FoundationTipJar Source Code
Ethereum Foundation # Donate
More Info PRIVATE NAME TAGS + Add
CONTRACT CREATOR 0xD1220A0c...62e7b9aDb 9 yrs 183 days ago

Post your reply

Alex Van de Sande (@avsa.eth) @avsa · Apr 9, 2016
@pipermerriam did you just executed a hostile takeover of the DAO while no one was looking?? 😬 "price of democracy is eternal vigilance".

cart00n.theUnicornMeat.eth (@cartoonitunes) · Jul 7
Meatiny!
#ethereum

CONTRACT CREATOR 0xD1220A0c...62e7b9aDb 9 yrs 141 days ago

ERC-20 Tokens
Transferred: 3

All Transfers Net Transfers

From 0x0c7e9dDd5...49BEaa32 To 0xc7e9dDd5...49BEaa32 For 1 For 1,140.375
Unicorns ()

From Null: 0x000...000 To 0xc7e9dDd5...49BEaa32 For 1,140.375
Unicorn Meat ()

From 0x0c7e9dDd5...49BEaa32 To 0xD1220A0c...62e7b9aDb For 1,140.375
Unicorn Meat ()



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



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

