

Introduction to Animal Welfare

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Phase 2 Essay

INTRODUCTION

What is animal welfare? “The state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.” This is the definition that is given by Google. I’d like to discuss why I am interested in this topic including the background that I have that leads me to contemplate animal welfare.

According to my beliefs as a spiritualist who often goes through the process of “channeling,” or receiving knowledge and information from spiritual sources, the animal kingdom reflects what was the state of God before there was Creation. God was in a state of infinite suffering. The suffering can be quantified with infinity, but there is also a quality. The quality of the infinite suffering was that God was eating God’s own self. The concept of universal Oneness brings the conclusion that all animals in the animal kingdom are One, they are all part of that design. Then, if it is One, it reflects the condition of God eating His/Her self in the beginning of time, or where there is no time, since time is only to be interpreted by humans. According to my knowledge that I

attained through my channeling ability, forced self-cannibalism is a secret way that torture is done during war. It is the greatest way that a person can be forced into pain, as it reflects the pain of God (though for humans it is finite). Also, throughout the ages, when a country loses a war their nobility and royal families have historically been forced to commit incest by opposing nations. This execution brutally attacks the trust, love, and respect that the nobles and royal families have toward one another, in order to demolish the nation from the top of their pyramid. This also reflects God's infinite suffering.

So why animal welfare? It is my belief that the Law of Karma, or the spiritual laws of cause and effect of good or evil behavior, does indeed take place. Humanity has been eating animal flesh by inhumanely killing the beasts as a form of survival for a long time. It is this act that has been forcing humanity to be in a constant state of struggle and survival with one another – that Darwinian ways contagiously entered human civilization because of meat-eating. Now that we are not Neanderthals and that there is a great system in operating, we can afford to switch to the plant-based diet.

To be vegetarian shall become the norm in the world. This is an aspect of future Utopia that chosen souls can be born again into. I'd like to declare that I am a hybrid, or a cross between vegan and vegetarian. I have egg white, but I don't have dairy products. I wish I didn't have to eat eggs at all, but I think that people are meant to eat eggs, so it is a matter of solving the great error in the world, the mass industrialization of animals for food that leads to animal cruelty.

I'd like to take my time with my studies to look further into the matter of animal welfare, where one strategy I have is to promote self-sufficiency so that you can truly make eggs and dairy products safely –and by safely I mean that the animals would be safe. But that would not be enough, for there will always be the system order of operations in human society governed by law that must be looked into for greater change.

I'd like to investigate the matter of animals and animal welfare through my Phase 2 studies at A.I.U. Here are some courses that I'd be interested in pursuing to complete the requirement for the degree:

- Animal Welfare Law
- Self-Sufficiency
- Vegetarianism/Veganism
- Ecology/Biodiversity
- Zoology
- Animal Experimentation
- Wildlife
- Animal Rights
- Deforestation
- Black Beauty (a novel)

In a YouTube video, an explanation of terms is given. “Welfare” is a term used synonymously with “wellbeing.” So, if a person or animal has a positive experience, then that is good welfare. If they have a negative experience, that is poor welfare.

Other words that indicate the welfare of a sentient being are “satisfaction” and its other word “frustration.” Based on this definition of welfare, it can be said that the straightforward way to interpret the words “animal welfare” would mean the state of how the animal feels, whether good or bad. Other times, “animal welfare” is used synonymously with “animal welfare law.” The term animal welfare often doesn’t include wild animals. For wild animals, there would have to be another term “wild animal welfare.” For wild animals, it can be noted that when a predator kills a prey, the prey is suffering. This can be termed “wild animal suffering.” Natural animal suffering cannot be avoided and is a separate topic from the suffering that animals can go through because of human influence. This human influence can affect wild animal welfare. It can be the case that wild animal welfare can be about animals that have been captured by humans.

What seems to be the determining factor that divides animal welfare theorists/activists and non-theorists/meat-eaters is the argument of whether or not animals are truly “sentient beings” or not. Do they feel? Even if they did feel, to what extent do they feel? Is the extent of feeling significant enough for their welfare to be considered on moral grounds by human beings who have the power of control over them?

According to the article *What do animals feel?*, animals can exhibit behavior that indicates mood, emotional, or psychological states that reflect sentience such as the sense of protecting others, play, anxiety, boredom, contentment, etc. An EEG machine that measures brain waves was used to make measurements on the inner state of

horses, and the study found that horses that roamed freely outside had more theta waves, which are known to reflect calm and wellbeing, the emotional state that is the opposite of being stressed. The study also showed that horses who stayed in their given place by humans all the time had more gamma waves – waves that are known to reflect a stressful state of mind.

I believe that it is the development of the right hemisphere of the brain that will allow humanity to collectively recognize intuitively and compassionately that animals indeed are sentient beings. The problem is that we live in a left-hemispheric world. One way to make changes in this type of world is through the innovation of education: holistic education.

Another way that the right hemisphere can develop more is that through globalization, the world would become more complex and pluralistic which would naturally cause individuals to use the opposite side of their brain to interpret their world. The right hemisphere of the brain is the hemisphere of Oneness, and the world's advancement towards Oneness will inevitably lead to change in consciousness, which will result in a better world.

CONCLUSION

I'd like to take the opportunity of being a living person in this world to take the issue of animal welfare seriously, and construct an action plan. There are various organizations that recruit volunteers. Maybe that is a good start.

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