

TOTAL MARK AWARDED	
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	7
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Supporting evidence (Drawn from written evidence submitted, creative work and judgements based on oral presentations.)

Well presented, good source range (11), analysis of sources in the research though less application of these in discussion. Puts arguments for and against and makes a case for point of view - this could be stronger with some more use of sources. Clear conclusion, good commitment shown.

Consent

This project is the student's own work.

Permission is granted for this work to be used to exemplify School Philosophy Certificate work and in the examining and moderation process.

Student signature (Student should add initials)

Teacher signature (Teacher should add initials)

Philosophy Project Plan

Question: Do Animals have Rights

Form of project (e.g. report, presentation, film or podcast):

Essay

Topic areas to research:

Animals for meat, experimentation, entertainment

Ideas for resources (e.g. websites, books, articles, magazines, people to interview):

Newspapers, journalists, animal rights websites.

If you are part of a group project, list the roles and responsibilities of each group member and explain how you will identify each group member's work in your report:

Should Animals Have Rights?

Introduction (100)

Animal rights have been a well-fought argument throughout the world's recent history with strong arguments favourable for either side. We will be looking at the pros and cons for each topic including religious and non-religious views. But what is animal rights and how do we go about defining them?

What is animal rights?

By definition, animal rights are the rights of animals to live free from human exploitation and abuse.¹

How do animals experiment?

¹ [Oxford Languages | The Home of Language Data](#)

The main animal experimentation occurs in laboratories where they are given no freedoms and are abused throughout the day.

Can we move to a completely meat-free diet?

There would be lots of positive effects if everyone went meat-free such as a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. However, there are negative impacts such as deficiencies in certain things overall resulting in a higher mortality rate. We will be focusing on the animal abuse aspects of this topic starting with the research into what big websites and companies who are well knowledgeable in this subject.

Research (700)

WWF animal rights

The WWF is a charity that helps the environment and wildlife rights around the world. They have impacted ecosystems and animal lives massively, especially over the last ten years with new and improving technology. They will continue to do so over the next decades and centuries to help animals across the world. They have worked in over 100 other countries and 83% of their income is focussed on animal conservation.²

Defenders of Wildlife

The Defenders of Wildlife are a group that focuses on how to defend and save groups of animals that are endangered. On their website, it has the latest of animals that are increasingly likely to go extinct. It has ways of how people can help out by contacting them and donating to help different animals survive such as a manatee. They mainly work in North America trying to preserve animals and keep them alive. The charity is growing a lot around the world and they hope to become worldwide like the WWF.³

About PETA

Peta is a movement preventing animal experimentation and testing and making people know what they're doing to harm animals so they can stop doing so. They aim to stop animal experimentation forever. The slogan their, not ours to experiment on, suggests how animals have intrinsic value, meaning that they have value in their own right. Peta provides public learning to educate people on how to preserve animal life while being educated about it.⁴

Animal Rights on JSTOR

This article on JSTOR asks the question of what value animals have to us. Should we treat them as valuable to ourselves for us to use to our advantage? Or do they have value in their own right? This article debates this greatly considering all kinds of options, from climate to eating meat, from testing to keeping animals as pets. This article concludes that animals have rights, a modern take on the world today, with lots of evidence and detail as well as a backup argument.⁵

² [WWF animal rights](#)

³ [Defenders of Wildlife](#)

⁴ [About PETA | PETA.org](#)

⁵ [JSTOR](#)

BBC - Ethics - Animal rights

This article from the BBC debates both sides of the argument, first of all concentrating on the consequences of animal rights. The article also argues about whether animals have a soul, and that they are not very moral, both of these points are very hard to argue as we are animals too, so if we have rights, they must as well. Overall, this article concludes that we are very similar to animals in everything we do. So if we don't test and experiment on each other, we cannot, and it would be morally wrong to do the same to animals.⁶

RSPCA - Animal Rights

The RSPCA talks a lot about the animal welfare act, they are strongly against animal experimentation and using animals to our advantage. They believe in animal rights and this article explains all about how they are helping, and how everyone can help out differently. To summarise RSPCA, in section 9 of the animal welfare act, the public must help out by taking certain steps to ensure that animals are safe and have a good, carefree life. To educate people, they have created a list of what every animal should have, from a good diet to enough exercise they guide and help animals live their best life.⁷

Article on Animal Rights - NatGeo

This article on National Geographic called "A person or a thing" argues how much value animals to the world, if they are ours for the taking, or if they are free to live their own life, with no worries. It argues and talks to people from all types of jobs, including zookeepers giving arguments from their perspective. Like most articles, it doesn't state what its opinion was, although it heavily led towards the side of rights as most articles do in the world today.⁸

Last Chance for Animals

Last Chance for Animals is a charity based in the UK, and anyone can apply for jobs, and donate money to help animals who need food, shelter and love. They check in on animals to see if they are being treated fairly or if they need rehoming. The animals they help are dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs. They make sure the animals they find are chipped so they can be returned to their owner or getting a new, more caring owner.⁹

Mercy for Animals

Mercy for Animals focuses on the aspect of food and is trying to stop animals in the food industry. While collaborating with Greta Thunberg Mercy for animals are finding a way to short term make sure the industry is caring for animals and in the long term looking to reduce meat in the food industry. They are non-profit so all donations that they get is going towards helping animals.¹⁰

⁶ [BBC - Ethics - Animal ethics: Animal rights](#)

⁷ [Animal Welfare Act - RSPCA](#)

⁸ [National Geographic Animal Rights Article](#)

⁹ [Last Chance for Animals](#)

¹⁰ [Mercy for Animals](#)

Discussion (800)

We now look at both sides of the argument and debate each side in an unbiased way. Let's start with the argument against animal rights. First of all, humans have free will, which means they are allowed to do things such as eat animals for meat and shouldn't be punished. This is the case for most people around the world as 86% of people eat meat. This is because of several reasons: animals are not sentient beings therefore they have instrumental value to us. This is that we can use animals to our advantage so eating meat is ok. Also, we have survived by eating meat for a very long time, so why stop now? People think that the climate crisis can be solved by some other way such as cutting down carbon emissions while eating meat at the same time. We have done this in the past so we can do it again. But we are talking about animal rights, not the climate crisis so this theory doesn't work that well. Another theory is where humans are compared to animals. Humans are at the top of the food chain, this means that it is acceptable to eat meat as we need it to survive so it is crucial to us. Now onto experimentation, people believe that animal experimentation is crucial for the development of vaccines and medicine. We need to know whether something is safe to use therefore we can use animals to test it out. A lot of people who think we come above animals believe in this. And it is a strong theory as we are 98% similar to animals.¹¹

We've talked about the reasons against human rights but can we find a happy medium? A lot of charities work to fight for human rights but now many of these charities are completely vegetarian. I imagine not considering the population of the world that are. So does believing in animal rights mean you have to justify your actions in everything you do? Some people think not, as it can be harder to get nutrients, but coming from a vegetarian's point of view, I haven't found this to be the case. But even if you're not vegetarian, donating to charities and adopting animals that have been rescued can make a huge difference to the lives of some animals so just because someone isn't vegetarian don't automatically assume they don't believe or take action on the rights of animals.

Onto arguments in favour of animal rights. First is the argument of eating meat. Although a lot of people find meat very tasty, morally it is not right, should animals be killed savagely just so we can enjoy food a little bit more? Surely not as eating meat isn't a necessity, we don't need it to stay alive and we are just slaughtering animals just to get a little bit more taste in our curry, a bit more flavour in our stew, surely this doesn't seem right? How would you feel if your family were killed every day just so it ended up on another person's plate? It wouldn't be very nice and the animals feel powerless, weak, and feeble. Next is the argument of animal experimentation. Once again I believe this is purely cruel as we are only using things such as vaccines and medicines to our advantage, which seems outrageous, if we are using it, we should test it, simple as that. How would you feel if you were brought into a lab to be tested resulting in injuries for you and finding out that the thing you're testing doesn't even benefit you? This is outrageous, it is completely unfair on every animal getting tested, the purpose of their lives is this, just think of every pill you take when you're ill, when you get vaccinated, an animal has suffered from that. The argument of abuse is a really interesting

¹¹ [Why Animal Research? - Stanford Medicine](#)

one. It is very cruel but some sentences have been limited due to underlying issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, which isn't right. An animal's life has been ruined due to this person, so no matter the circumstances just because the person is intoxicated doesn't mean the sentence should be any shorter as they had 'no control'. How would you feel if someone has murdered a member of your family but they had a limited sentence because they were drunk? It just wouldn't happen so why should it be any different if animals were the victims of someone not taking care of themselves and being careful. Over the last few years, the maximum sentence for someone abusing and causing harm has increased to 5 years¹², in my opinion, this is not enough considering 1 life sentence for a human in the UK is 5 times this amount which doesn't make sense considering that it is the same crime for two different animals.

Conclusion (100)

To conclude, I strongly believe that animals should have rights because most animals are sentient meaning they feel things and have emotions just like humans so they shouldn't be treated differently, also if animals didn't have rights they would suffer horrifically. However this isn't about my opinion, it's about whether they do or don't and right now although improvements to looking after and respecting animals need some more work, I believe that right now animals do have rights, but not quite enough of them. If sentences can be raised by another few years for offenders, might almost be completely cut out from people's diet, and experimentation on animals is completely abolished, we would come to the simple conclusion that animals most certainly have rights. We're making good progress, but even more can be made in the next few decades.

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¹² [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

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