

Animal Welfare & Ethics

What is Animal Welfare ?

*It is a concern for animal suffering and
for animal happiness*

Animal Welfare Science

*is the science of animal suffering and
animal happiness*

The Importance of an Animal Welfare Problem (W)

$$W \propto N \times I \times D \times C$$

- N Number of animals affected
- I Intensity of the suffering
- D Duration of suffering
- C Capacity of the animal to suffer

Forms of Animal Suffering

- Pain
- Social isolation
- Fear and anxiety
- Depression
- Frustration
- Starvation and hunger
- Dehydration and thirst
- Excessive cold or heat
- Sickness and Disease
- Breathlessness
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Anhedonia
- Discomfort

What are the differences between ...

- *Animal Welfare*
- *Animal Rights*
- *Animal Liberation*
- *Ethics*
- *Etiquette*

Ethics

- *Some definitions*
- *4 ways of distinguishing right from wrong*
- *Applied ethics examples*

*Ethics is about
Distinguishing right from wrong*

- When is suffering unacceptable ?
- When does suffering have to be accepted and tolerated ?

Normative Ethics (Prescriptive Ethics)

Prescriptive ethics is the study of ethical actions and virtue ethics. How should people act or behave ? What standards should be used ?

e.g. How should we castrate cattle ? (Burdizzo, rubber ring or surgical method ?)

Metaethics is the study of moral facts.

e.g. What is wrong with castrating cattle ? [“so what” questions]

Virtue ethics are behaviours and beliefs that emanate from a person’s moral character.

e.g. someone who is against castrating cattle because it is not consistent with their view of ‘a well-lived life’



Normative Ethics (continued)

Deontology is morality based on rules.

e.g. some people believe they have a ‘duty of care’ not to inflict unnecessary pain, and so cattle must be provided with analgesia when they are castrated by potentially painful methods

Consequentialism - the outcomes determine whether something is right or wrong.

e.g. castrating cattle is considered acceptable if it prevents injury to livestock handlers

Axiology is a moral position based on inherent character and beliefs.

e.g. someone may prefer to see bulls rather than steers, because they are more natural

Non-normative Ethics (Descriptive Ethics)

Descriptive ethics understanding moral beliefs. This can be value-neutral ethics.

e.g. what proportion of people in Brazil think it is wrong to castrate cattle ?

Moral relativism understanding fundamental differences in beliefs about right and wrong.

e.g. XX% of Brazilian farmers believe that castrating cattle is acceptable, but YY% of people living in Rio de Janeiro city believe it is wrong.

***4 ways of assessing the acceptability of
an
Animal Welfare Issue***

- 1. Is it Fair; Is it Necessary; Are there Alternatives ?**
- 2. Advantages vs Disadvantages list**
- 3. Compliance with the Five Freedoms**
- 4. SOCLAPP analysis**

1. Is it Fair analysis

Is it Fair ?

Is it Necessary ?

Are there Alternatives ?





Controversial Animal Welfare Issues

- Rodeo
- Holstein ♂ calves
- Battery hens
- Confinement in zoos
- Beak trimming
- Long distance transport
- Dry sow stalls (gestation crates)
- Farrowing crates
- Working horses
- Jaguar management
- Live cattle export trade
- Hereditary disorders in dogs
- Religious slaughter
- Live animal experiments
- Dangerous dog control
- Abandoned pets
- Stocking density in broiler farms
- Training methods for performing animals
- Wildlife trafficking
- Urine farming



Is it Fair ?

- **Confinement**
 - **sufficient exercise ?**
 - **frustration and boredom ?**
 - **sufficient social interaction ?**
- **Risk of contact injuries**
- **Risk of respiratory disorders**

Is it Necessary ?

- **Natural treatment for osteoporosis**

Are there Alternatives ?

- **Synthetic hormone replacement therapy**

Summary

Is it Fair ?

Depends on the care and conditions provided

Is it Necessary ?

*Consumer and market driven, but some
consider it an immoral use of animals*

Are there Alternative ?

Yes

2. Advantages and Disadvantages



2. Advantages and Disadvantages analysis of castrating calves

Advantages

- Control over the breeding program
- Avoids unwanted pregnancies and stunting in females
- Ease and safety when handling male cattle
- Lower risk of injuries from fighting
- Less dark cutting beef

Disadvantages

- Stress of restraint
- Pain during the procedure
- Post-operative pain
- Slower growth in castrates
- Risk of infection
- Fatter carcasses
- An unnatural interference

3. Five Freedoms analysis

Freedom

- 1. from hunger and thirst**
- 2. from discomfort**
- 3. from pain**
- 4. to express normal behaviour**
- 5. from fear and distress**





3. Five Freedoms Analysis

- **Freedom from hunger and thirst** – no major differences
- **Freedom from discomfort** – cage environment likely to be less comfortable
- **Freedom from pain** – greater problems with broken bones in the barn system
- **Freedom to express normal behaviour** – cage system worse
- **Freedom from fear and distress** – variable. There can be problems with both systems.

4. SOCLAPP Analysis

What is in the best interest of

- **Society**
- **Oneself**
- **Client**
- **Law**
- **Animal**
- **Practice**
- **Profession**

Question

Medical doctors are required to report cases of child abuse.

Should veterinarians be required to report cases of animal abuse ?



SOCLAPP Analysis

- ***Society*** - *vets have a role in protecting animals against cruelty.
Animal abuse can lead to abuse of children*
- ***Oneself*** - *does your sense of duty lie more strongly with maintaining client confidentiality or with reporting a suspected case of cruelty ? How confident are you that this was a case of animal abuse ?*
- ***Client*** - *would expect vet to maintain client confidentiality*
- ***Law*** - *client confidentiality would not be grounds for protecting a client who has broken the law*
- ***Animal*** - *chance of repetition – animal not in a position to defend itself*
- ***Practice*** - *may not want to develop a reputation of reporting its clients
- consult with partners*
- ***Profession*** - *veterinary profession has a responsibility for protecting the interests of animals. Make sure any report is not libellous.*

The Vet should take action +

The Vet does not always need to take action + / -

<i>Society</i>	+
<i>Oneself</i>	+ / -
<i>Client</i>	-
<i>Law</i>	?
<i>Animal</i>	+
<i>Practice</i>	+ / -
<i>Profession</i>	+

5 + 3 -

When should someone be reported for suspected cruelty ?

The Four I's

- *Ignorance*
- *Inexperience*
- *Incompetence*
- *Inconsideration*

A man decides to buy three ostriches
to keep at home

[What is the primary purpose of anti-cruelty regulations ?
When does mistreatment become cruelty ?]



What are the Animal Welfare problems that concern Society most ?

- **Confinement**
- **Amputations without pain relief**
- **Inappropriate genetic selection**
- **Humane slaughter**

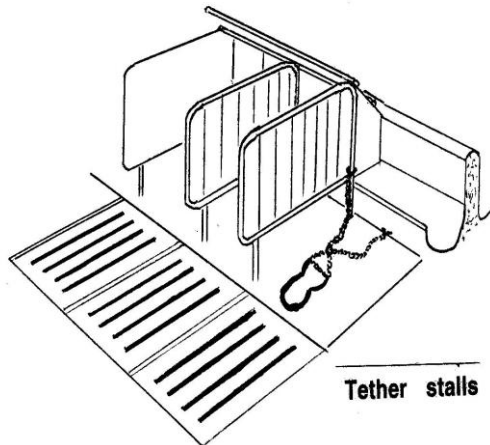
Confinement systems

Becoming less common

Sow tether systems

Veal calf crates

Cow tether systems



Common

Layer hen cages

Gestation crates for sows

Farrowing crates

Caged salmon

Caged rabbits, mink & quail



Veal calf crate



Caged salmon

Invasive procedures without pain relief

- **Nose ringing -**
- **Nose pegging**
- **Beak trimming - -**
- **Teeth clipping**
- **Antler removal**
- **Disbudding**
- **Dehorning**
- **Dubbing**
- **Desnooding**
- **Eyestalk ablation**
- **Ear notching and implants**
- **Wing clipping -**
- **Branding -**
- **Pizzle dropping**
- **Mulesing -**
- **Tailing**
- **Castration**
- **Toe clipping**

We will consider these later in the Course

Inappropriate Genetic Selection

Some examples of genetic antagonisms

Double muscling and dystocia

Leg disorders and growth rate in broilers

Leg disorders and conformation in turkeys

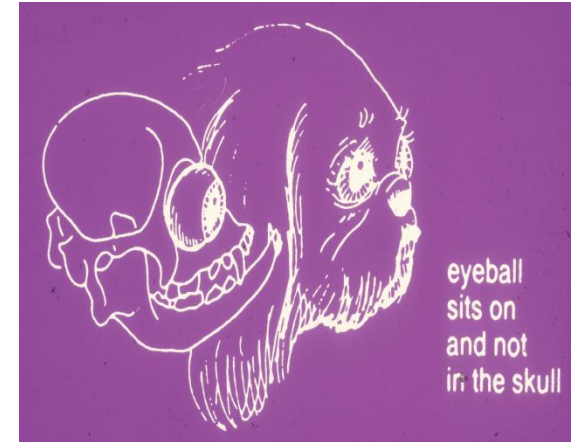
Metabolic disorders and milk yield in dairy cows

Stress sensitivity and leanness in pigs

Osteopenia and egg yield in layer hens

Ascites and muscle yield in broilers

Susceptibility to fly strike and wool yield
in sheep



Now it is time for you to do some work

1. Perform an Is it Fair, Is it Necessary, Are there Alternatives analysis on



Rodeos

To help answer the

- 1. “Is it Fair ?” part of the analysis, create an Advantages vs. Disadvantages list. This will tell you what information is needed.**
- 2. “Is it Necessary ?” question, include an analysis of the Consequentialist arguments. ‘What is for the Greater Good’**
- 3. “Are there Alternatives ?” - consider how the risks could be managed .**

2. Perform an Analysis

On a topic of your own choice

3. Perform an Analysis on

Human suffering is common in poorer countries.

**Is concern about Animal Welfare a luxury
which only wealthy countries can afford ?**

Answer

The answer can address two subsidiary issues

1. Why worry about animal welfare ?
2. How should scarce resources be shared between controlling human and animal suffering ?

The discussion of **part 1** could include

The cultural need or incentive for avoiding or managing animal suffering exists in most poor societies. In many poorer countries, respect and care for animals is part of personal dignity. It is undignified to be cruel or to ignore animal suffering. There is, however, less emotional involvement or empathy for animals in many of the poorer nations.

The reasons for caring about animal suffering include

- sense of justice or fairness
- sense of respect
- sense of responsibility
- emotional sympathy
- emotional empathy
- avoiding recrimination
- avoiding debasement
- legal obligations

These also apply to concern about human suffering. In other words, *the breadth of reasons for worrying about animal suffering is similar to that for worrying about human suffering*. If, in your view, there are innate differences between humans and animals, these need to be described in a clear manner.

It can be argued that *the Animal Welfare issues that concern wealthy nations are different from those in Developing Countries*. Features that cause concern in wealthy nations (e.g. confinement and invasive husbandry procedures) may be of lesser importance in poor nations, where underfeeding, inadequate treatment of disease and infrequent access to water may be more serious issues. Transposing concerns about the same animal welfare issues between wealthy and poor nations is superficial and misses the point that 'animal welfare' is about animal suffering whatever form it takes or whatever its cause.

The discussion of **part 2** could include

Human suffering is generally accepted as a higher priority than animal suffering. Discussion of speciesism may be relevant.

However, the need for avoiding or managing animal suffering also exists and cannot be unreasonably dismissed.

Where resource allocation in avoiding or controlling suffering can be apportioned to both humans and animals, the balance between the two depends on

- the value attached to the animal(s)

 - emotional attachment

 - utilitarian value

 - symbolic and religious value

- urgency in demands that have to be met immediately

- personal capacity to take action in relieving either human or animal suffering – not everyone is a medical doctor – use your own talents in the most appropriate way

- types and amount of resources that are available, and the feasibility of providing relief

Awareness and recognition of human and animal suffering. Human suffering is easier to recognise.

4. Should the Amazon be used for beef cattle production ?

**Justify your answer with clear statements.
Include an assessment of the alternative
views.**