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**The Top 10 Animal Rights Issues**

By

[Doris Lin](https://www.thoughtco.com/doris-lin-127487)

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Here is a list of the top [animal rights](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-are-animal-rights-127600) issues being discussed, based on the effects on animals and the numbers of animals and people involved. It's all due to the human population, which is over 7.5 billion people and growing.

[**Human Overpopulation**](https://www.thoughtco.com/effects-of-human-overpopulation-127867)

Human overpopulation is the No. 1 threat to wild and domestic animals worldwide. Whatever humans do to use, abuse, kill, or displace animals is magnified by the number of people on the planet, which is over 7.5 billion as of October 2018. While Third World countries are experiencing the most [population growth](https://www.treehugger.com/population-growth-and-environmental-problems-1203586), those of us in the First World, who consume the most, have the biggest impact.

[**Property Status of Animals**](https://www.thoughtco.com/arguments-for-and-against-keeping-pets-127752)

Every animal use and abuse **stems from (***comes from***)** their treatment as human property, to be used for human purposes no matter how trivial. From a practical standpoint, changing the property status of animals would benefit pets and their human guardians. We could start by referring to domestic animals living with us as "companion animals" instead of pets and referring to people caring for them as "guardians," not owners. Most dog and cat guardians refer to them as their "fur children" and consider them [members of the family](https://theharrispoll.com/new-york-n-y-september-13-2012-americans-have-always-had-interesting-relationships-with-their-pets-whether-those-pets-are-cats-dogs-parakeets-or-something-else-entirely-the-pet-industry-i/).

With millions of cats and dogs killed in shelters every year, nearly all activists agree that people should spay and neuter their pets. Some activists oppose keeping pets, but no one wants to take your dog from you. A very small number of activists oppose sterilization because they believe it **infringes (***breaks, violates***)** on the animal's right to be free from human intervention.

[**Veganism**](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-veganism-127598)

Veganism is more than a diet. It's about **abstaining from (***choose not to do***)** all animal use and animal products, whether it's meat, milk, leather, wool, or silk. People who follow a plant-based diet may be doing it for ethical or nutritional reasons, while those who adopt a vegan diet for nutritional reasons might not abstain from buying or wearing leather or even fur. They aren't vegan because they love animals, but because they want to live a healthier lifestyle.

[**Factory Farming**](https://www.thoughtco.com/factory-farming-faq-127724)

Although [factory farming](https://www.thoughtco.com/why-do-we-have-factory-farming-127703) involves many cruel practices, it isn't just those practices that are objectionable. The use of animals and animal products for food is antithetical to [animal rights](https://www.thoughtco.com/why-should-animals-have-rights-127603).

[**Fish and Fishing**](https://www.thoughtco.com/turns-out-fish-feel-pain-127665)

Many people have a hard time understanding objections to eating fish, but [fish do feel pain](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/animal-emotions/201605/fishes-know-feel-and-care-humane-revolution-in-progress). Also, overfishing threatens the survival of those that make up the marine ecosystem, in addition to the species targeted by commercial fisheries. So [fish farms](https://www.thoughtco.com/whats-wrong-with-fish-farms-127666) are not the answer.

[**'Humane' Meat**](https://www.thoughtco.com/arguments-for-and-against-humane-meat-127672)

While some animal protection organizations promote "humane" meat, others believe that the term is an oxymoron. Each side argues that its position helps animals.

[**Animal Experimentation**](https://www.thoughtco.com/experimentation-on-animals-considered-in-senate-127848)

Some animal **advocates** (*supporters*) argue that the results of experiments on animals are **invalid** **(***with no use***)** when applied to humans, but regardless of whether the data helps humans, performing experiments on them violates their rights. Don't expect the ​[Animal Welfare Act](https://www.thoughtco.com/overview-of-the-animal-welfare-act-127546) to protect them; many species used in experiments are [not covered under the AWA](https://www.apa.org/monitor/julaug02/rats).

[**Hunting**](https://www.thoughtco.com/is-hunting-ever-defensible-127868)

Animal rights activists oppose any killing of an animal for meat, whether it's done in a slaughterhouse or a forest, but there are [arguments](https://www.thoughtco.com/top-arguments-against-animal-rights-127630) specifically against hunting that are important to understand.

**Fur**

Whether captured in a trap, raised on a fur farm or **bludgeoned (***beat up, club***)** to death on an ice **floe (***floating sea ice***)**, animals suffer and [die](https://www.thoughtco.com/how-many-animals-are-killed-each-year-127631) for fur. Although fur coats have fallen out of fashion, fur trim is still widely available and sometimes isn't even labeled as real fur.

[**Animals in Entertainment**](https://www.thoughtco.com/animals-in-entertainment-4132962)

Greyhound racing, horse racing, rodeos, marine mammals on display, and animals used in movies and television are treated as **chattel (***personal possession***)**. Where there is exploitation for money, the potential for abuse is a constant problem. To achieve the behavior necessary to appear in movies or commercials, animals are often mistreated into **submission (***the**act of**allowing someone to have power over you=υποταγή****)*.** In other instances, the fact that they are not allowed to follow their natural behavior can result in catastrophic consequences, as was the case with Travis the chimp.

How You Can Help

Trying to understand and take on "animal rights" as a whole can be **daunting (***difficult to deal with, discouraging***)**. Many issues concerning animal rights are **fluid and evolutionary (***dynamic, subject to change***)**, with legislative changes occurring every day at the state and federal level.  For example, Grey2KUSA Worldwide announced on May 13, 2016, that Arizona became the 40th state to ​[ban greyhound racing](http://www.grey2kusa.org/eNEWS/G2K-051316.html). If you want to help, choose an issue or a few issues about which you are passionate and find other activists who share your concerns.

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