HAVE YOU EVER HEARD
OF SPECIESISM?

You probably think it's wrong to discriminate against some people because of their skin color or sex. But what about when we harm others who belong to species different from ours? Treating animals unfairly based on their species membership is called **speciesism.** It's a widespread form of **discrimination** that many animals suffer today.

Like us, nonhuman animals are feeling creatures who can experience **suffering or enjoyment** depending on how we treat them. Yet they are subjected to harms we would never inflict on humans. Most of us would agree that it's unfair to harm humans because of their skin color or sex. Isn't it also unfair to harm animals simply because they belong to one species instead of another? Shouldn't how we treat others be based on relevant factors, such as whether they can be harmed or helped by our actions?

INTELLIGENCE IS NOT WHAT MATTERS: SUFFERING IS

We show respect for others by trying not to harm them, and helping them when we can. Many people accept that we should respect dogs and cats, and not harm them. But other animals can also suffer. Shouldn't we respect them too?

There are people who say we shouldn't respect animals because they are less intelligent than we are. But many humans have lesser intellectual capacities, due to disease, accidents or congenital reasons. It's clear to most of us that we shouldn't discriminate against or harm those humans. This shows that, when it comes to respecting someone, what matters is not intelligence or mere species membership. What matters is whether they can be harmed or benefited by us.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

More and more people are learning about the injustices against nonhuman animals, so don't want them to have lives full of fear and pain, and to face early deaths in places like circuses and farms. We can help prevent the suffering and deaths of animals by deciding not to support their exploitation. Learn about veganism and other ways to oppose animal exploitation on our website: **www.veganism.io**

Animals living in the wild also face hardships in situations in which we could help them, due to factors such as extreme weather conditions, natural disasters, malnutrition, accidents, and injuries. We can help by spreading concern for wild animals and supporting rescues of animals in need.

By doing so, we'll be contributing to ending all unjustified discrimination, including speciesism.

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