



CREATING

**A FAIRER WORLD
FOR EVERYONE**



MOST PEOPLE THINK ANIMALS DESERVE RESPECT

The majority of people now think nonhuman animals deserve protection from harm, according to Gallup polls.

Moreover: a growing number of people think nonhuman animals should not be discriminated against at all.

SCIENTISTS AGREE ANIMALS CAN FEEL SUFFERING AND PLEASURE

Most of us now know well that nonhuman animals can suffer and feel pleasure, as humans can.

The scientific community has now stated this unequivocally. In 2012, an international group of prestigious scientists signed the Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness.



This declaration states:

“Humans are not unique in possessing the neurological substrates that generate consciousness. Nonhuman animals, including all mammals and birds, and many other creatures, including octopuses, also possess these neurological substrates.”

Sentience is the capacity to have positive and negative experiences, such as feeling pain and pleasure. Animals with centralized nervous systems, whether vertebrates or invertebrates, are sentient. This means our actions can benefit or harm them.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT *SPECIESISM* IS?



The word speciesism is now used by academics, scientists and many other people around the world. It refers to the discrimination suffered by most animals.

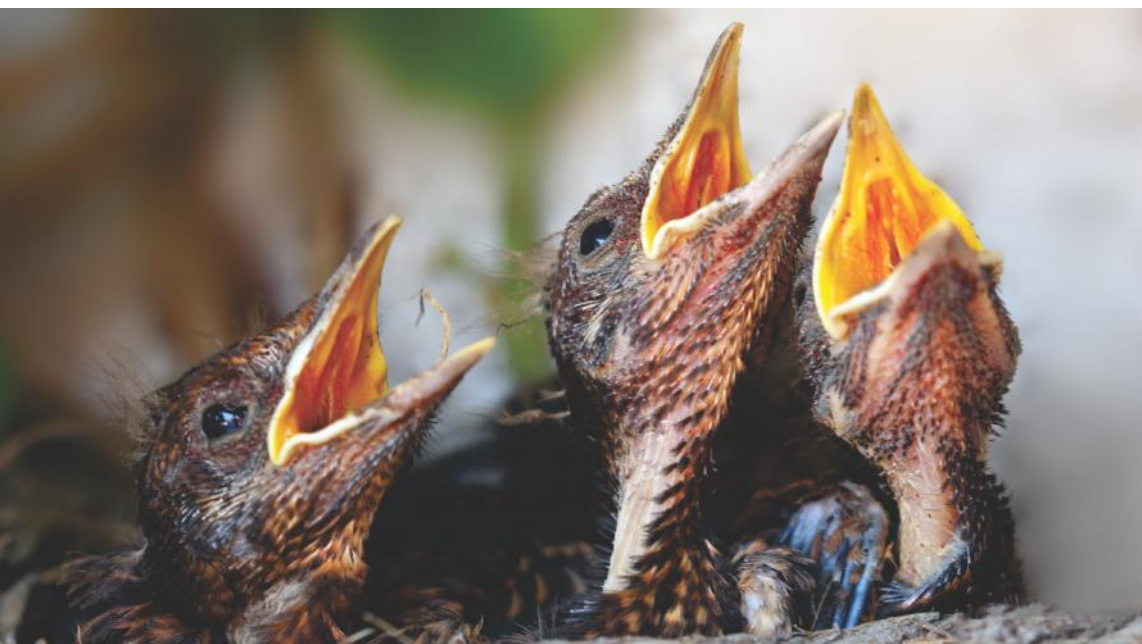
Most of us agree that discrimination because of sex or skin color is wrong. But what if someone is made to suffer because they are a member of one species instead of another? That's also discrimination.

Humans can live happily or in misery. Because we care about the wellbeing of other humans, we try not to harm them. But other sentient animals can be miserable or happy, too. To treat them differently is unjust.

TRADITIONAL WAYS AREN'T NECESSARILY THE BEST WAYS

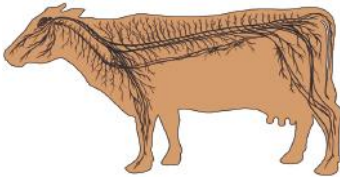
Traditionally, many animals have been used as resources as if they were mere things. But that is changing now. Many people are questioning the fairness of harming animals for human gain.

Human slavery was accepted until there were people who questioned and opposed it. The same is starting to happen now with respect to nonhuman animals. As our societies continue to progress, our circle of concern will expand to include all sentient nonhuman animals, just as it has expanded to include other traditionally oppressed groups.



NONHUMAN ANIMALS CAN FEEL JUST LIKE WE DO

Having a centralized nervous system makes other animals able to experience suffering like humans do. Plants, fungi, and other organisms that don't have centralized nervous systems, such as bacteria and protozoa, can't suffer.



Some say that plants “look for” the light, and this means that plants feel. But plants are simply reacting to stimuli, like the mercury in a thermometer. The mercury reacts to heat, but not because it is responding to sensations. Sentient animals, unlike plants, experience sensations and can suffer if they are harmed them, just as we can.

THE DEFENSE OF ANIMALS IS DIFFERENT FROM ENVIRONMENTALISM

Respecting nonhuman animals means seeing them as individuals. Each individual animal matters, regardless of species or whether the animal lives around humans or in the wild.

Environmentalism is about the preservation of ecosystems and species. In environmentalist views, some things such as the balance of particular ecosystems or the preservation of particular species matter more than the wellbeing and lives of animals.

For example, environmentalists with preservationist aims may support killing non-native grey squirrels to leave more room for red squirrels. If we reject speciesism we will oppose this, and favor helping them instead.



Some people think that discriminating against and exploiting animals is acceptable, because they think it's justified to discriminate against those who are less intelligent or less powerful than we are. But there are many human beings who, due to certain injuries, diseases, or congenital conditions, have very limited intellectual or physical capacities. As a result, they are in a weak position relative to most humans.

Is it justified to discriminate against them because of their cognitive abilities or their relative powerlessness? Of course not.

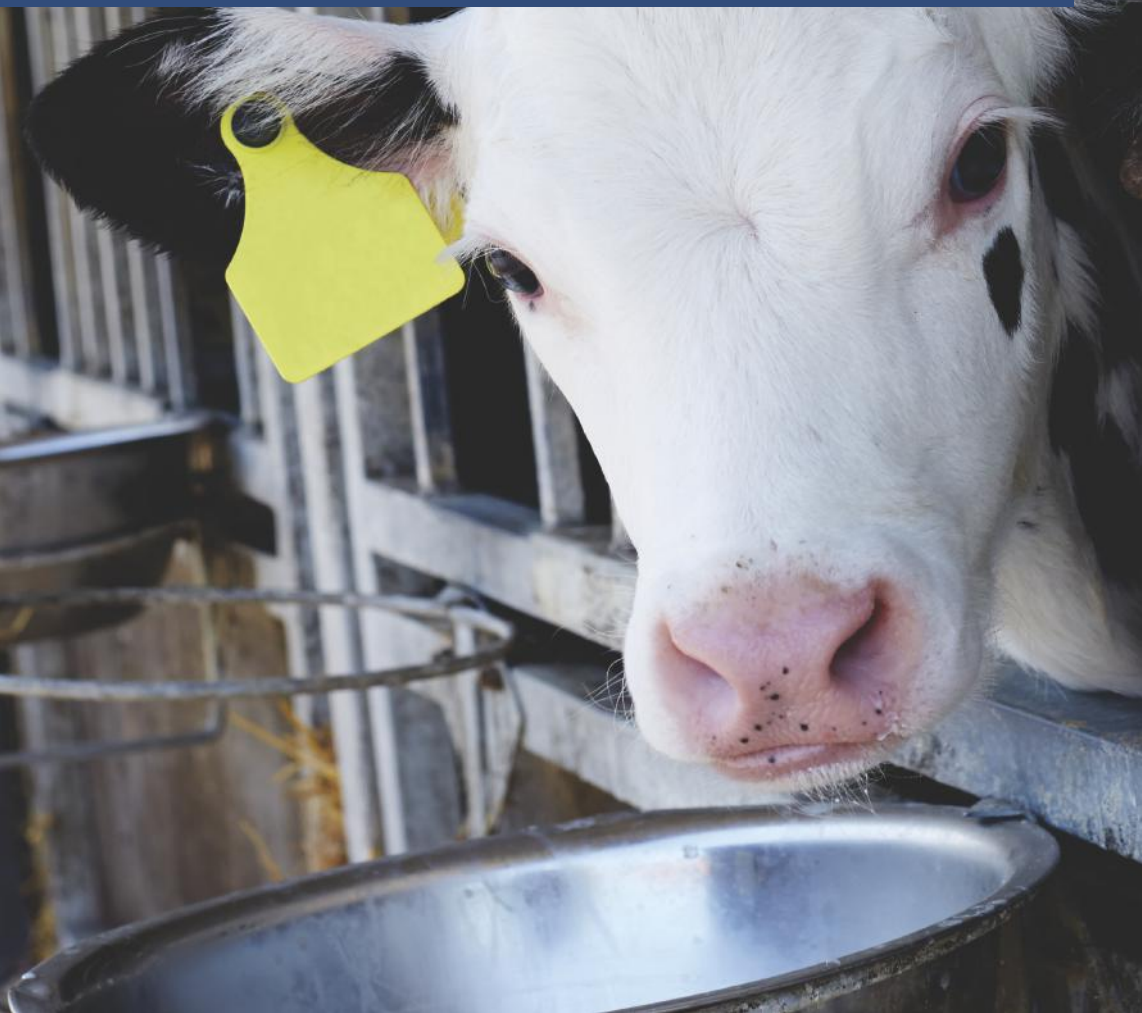
If these are not justifications for discrimination, the same reasoning has to be applied consistently to all feeling beings.

That includes all sentient animals. What matters is whether a being can feel, and can be harmed by our discrimination.

In Western countries, it is considered unacceptable to eat dogs and cats. Yet there is no problem with raising and killing other animals such as pigs, chickens, and fishes. But these animals are also able to experience suffering and enjoyment.

It is because of their ability to experience suffering and enjoyment - sentience - that we try not harm humans, dogs, and cats. Why treat other sentient animals differently?

It's time we treat all sentient animals with the respect they need.



NONHUMAN ANIMALS NEED OUR HELP

Animals are systematically exploited and made to suffer on farms because of speciesist attitudes that view some animals as more important and valuable than others.



MEET LUCKY MARIGOLD

Marigold saved herself by escaping of the place she was kept at. Otherwise, she would have been killed. She is now a happy member of Animal Place Sanctuary.

Most other animals raised in farms aren't so fortunate. They are crammed together on farms in such a way that they are usually unable to turn around and hardly able to move. They suffer terribly during all their short lives, until they are sent to be killed.



Many animals are killed by having their throats slit and bleeding to death while they are fully conscious.

Some are boiled, skinned, or cut into pieces while they are still alive. Other animals are painfully deprived of their lives by hunting and fishing activities.

This is due to the demand for animal products. But we can live without exploiting sentient animals. For more information visit: www.Veganism.io



Animals living in the wild also suffer many preventable harms. Sometimes this happens because humans harm them directly. In other cases, they suffer from natural causes where humans could have helped them.



MEET MALALA THE SPARROW

Sparrow Malala was attacked by a cat, and sustained serious injuries to her wing. She was given medical care and got her wing treated by Wild Bird Aid, and is now happy and safe. Many other animals can be saved if we help them.

Many people think animals in the wild live mostly good lives. Actually, there are many sources of suffering in the wild, including natural disasters, hunger, malnutrition and thirst, disease, parasitism, injuries, and bad weather conditions. Most animals can't make it to maturity and die in their youth.

Fortunately, though, there are now many examples of successful ways to help animals living in the wild. Concern for nonhuman animals is increasing and we are continually learning more about how to help them. However, often we don't do anything for them even when we could.



VACCINATING ANIMALS

These are doses of rabies vaccine. To prevent the spread of the disease millions of them are distributed in the wild, thus aiding many animals who might have suffered from rabies otherwise. Animals in the wild are vaccinated against many other diseases too.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

We can all do our part for a world with less speciesism. Nonhuman animals need people who will speak up for them, raising awareness and encouraging others to take a stand too.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Follow us and share our website and blog posts on social networks with others who are interested in these issues.
- Consider volunteering with Animal Ethics or other organizations that oppose speciesism. Get in touch with us at Volunteers@Animal-Ethics.org
- Join the growing number of people around the world who no longer consume animal products. These products are the result of exploiting animals, causing them to suffer and to die. You can find out more here: www.Veganism.io

With your help, we can create a world that respects all sentient animals.



Visit: www.Speciesism.io



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