

Study Guide for Fundamentals of Ethics

Chapter 16: Animal Rights

1. Define cruelty in terms of sentience.
2. Discuss the bearing natural predation has on the issue of the justification of harming animals.
3. Define moral right, and state and evaluate various possible criteria one might appeal to when claiming a being has moral rights.
4. Discuss the question of whether animals have rights, including a summary of the views of Joel Feinberg and Peter Singer.
5. Discuss the issue of animal interests versus human interests.
6. Explain and evaluate the three positions regarding animal experimentation.
7. Present anthropocentric reasons for preserving animal and plant species.
8. Identify problems with defining a species, and evaluate the position that species have rights.
9. Formulate your own opinion on the issue of animal rights.

Key Terms

Sentience

Moral Agent

Moral Standing

Endangered Species

Moral Rights

Moral Patient

Experimentation

Speciesism

Legal Rights

Interests