Megan Morgan

Katie Clark

English 105-12

November 23, 2010

Animal Liberation

The 21st century is a new era and now is time for change. Technology is more efficient and science is more reliable. People are changing their habits and lifestyles. Over the centuries, many people have been for animal experimentation and the knowledge it brought to society. In today’s society, however, many people find it unethical to put animals through the pain and suffering of experimentation. Animals should have protection rights and justice in today’s modern era.

“For the moment it will suffice to establish the point that no living animal should serve for surgical exercises, (Richet n44)”. Vivisection is the practice of subjecting living animals to cutting operations in order to advance physiological and pathological knowledge. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, anti-vivisection groups were beginning to become popular. Many would stand outside laboratories and protest. Anti-vivisectionists had the right idea, but most would take it to the extreme and use violence.

On the other hand, there were groups forming in favor of animal experimentation. They sought out education through animal experimentation. Without animal experimentation we would not have known the placement of animal organs or the size and shape of their bones. Animal experimentation can be beneficiary to the scholar who seeks the knowledge of knowing all about animals. Does wanting the knowledge of animals justify harmful experimentations to animals?

The victims of vivisection are numerous and vivisection is one of the calamities of the century, (Richet n112). The numbers of animals that die each year because of vivisection are in the millions. To even consider teaching young adults and high school student’s vivisection is immoral.

To provoke suffering to produce disease, to inflict tortures, is an execrable moral lesson. Whilst the first duty of man is to be good, you instruct young men to be wicked. The doctor, who ought to be compassionate for human suffering, should not serve his apprenticeship in that noble profession by showing himself devoid of pity for the suffering of innocent victims. A civilisation which allows itself to inflict death and torture on living beings can be only a barbarous civilisation. (Richet n 116)

Animals should not be the victims of human curiosity. Scientists know what the inside of an animal looks like, and schools have books or slide-shows to share the knowledge of animals with the students. Many schools and secondary schools use at least three million animals per year for student experiments. The Protection of Animals Act 1911 is far more extensive than the Act of 1876. Since the act of 1911, violations of its requirements have resulted in a considerable number of teachers being prosecuted for causing unnecessary suffering to animals.

The Ringling Bros. have a record of mistreating animals. Out of ten Asian elephants bred by the Ringling Bros., two are dead. Two were found with large lesions on their legs during inspections. Two baby elephants had rope burns on their necks from where they were forced away from their mother, (Ojeda 162). What happened to the fun time circus? Well it went away with the beating and mistreatment of the animals. Most animals are left out in the sun in their own feces, without water. Of the estimated 200 zoos in Canada, only 26 meet requirements by the CAZA (Ojeda 170). Many circuses have been charged with a complaint filed by the USDA for the misuse of animals and going against the Animal Welfare Act.

Although millions of unwanted dogs and cats are put to sleep in animal shelters, the Humane Society is against the use of animals for research. Most of research animals come from dealers who buy animals from owners, shelters, or other dealers. Before 1966, many cases of pets (dogs and cats) were reported stolen. Dealers would steal pets and resale the animals to research institutes to supply a great demand in test subjects. Congress enacted the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act in 1966. The Act was sought out to stop the abuse by requiring dealers and institutions that handle, care for, treat, or transport certain animals and to follow the standards by being developed and issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dogs are man’s best friend, hook man’s best friend up to some tubes and he is now science research best friend. In most labs, chimps can’t even lie with their arms and legs outstretched (Rohr 99). There is no reason for an animal to live in a small space; humans like their space so it should be obvious that animals like their space as well.

An undercover investigation of the University of North Carolina’s laboratories revealed many violations in regulations: cutting of baby rat’s heads without anesthesia, leaving live animals in cages with dead ones, failure to euthanize wounded and sick animals, and leaving hemophiliac mice with their tails cut off to bleed to death overnight (Dudley 41). Hearing how scientists treat animals is sickening and is illegal. This is just out right cruelty towards animals that can easily avoided. These scientists have gone against the Laboratory Animal Protection Act of 1911, the laboratories should have been shut down until it was able to perform safer experimentations.

“It’s part time for American justice to recognize that animals—in dramatic contrast to consumer products and faceless corporate entities—have lives and interests of their own (Dudley 19)”. Animals are loving, caring creatures who should be treated equally and with respect. Many people who care for animals put all their love and heart towards that animal. An estimated one million dogs have been named the primary beneficiary in their guardians will (Dudley 29). The people who name their animals their primary beneficiary show that it is not just a bond between owner and pet, it is actual love that is shared.

The most obvious evil is associated with the ordinary, day-to-day treatment of animals which billions are subjected to (Ojeda 25). The justice system has finally recognized that it is wrong to abuse animals and are prosecuting the abuser. These animals have a right to respect and the massive invasion of their bodies, denial of liberties, and destruction of their lives is such a huge evil that it is incomprehensible.

Recall that one of the weaknesses of the preference utilitarianism is that it cannot rule out counting evil preferences in the process of reaching a fully informed judgment of moral right and wrong. . . .From the perspective of the rights view, therefore, the magnitude of the evil in the world is not represented only by the evil done to animals when their rights are violated; it includes as well the innumerable human preferences that are satisfied by doing so. (Ojeda 25-26)

It is a true evil when people feel the satisfaction of knowing something when it caused the suffering of an innocent animal. It is absurd to go on with daily life when people cause suffering in animals and find it right; it is truly a moral wrong knowing that you cause suffering and are okay with it.

“In 1989, Revlon became the first cosmetics company to end all of its animals testing (Watson 46)”. Proctor & Gamble are the world’s largest consumer products company, making over $68 billion annually. Thus said, it is easy to say that Proctor & Gamble are the largest company to test on animals. Proctor & Gamble admits that: guinea pigs, rabbits, hamsters, ferrets, and other animals are used in their ‘product safety research’. Proctor & Gamble’s brand include: L’Oreal, Max Factor, Olay, Herbal Essences, Head and Shoulders, and more. Animals are subjected to many tests by Proctor & Gamble. The animals are shaven and rubbed with products to see what kind of reaction will happen. Products are forced in to their eyes, nose, mouth, and ears to make sure the product will not give consumers bad reactions.

“The 10 billion animals raised for food every year in this country are routinely and legally mutilated—chicks have their beaks burned off while still alive, cows and pigs are castrated without anesthesia, cows are dehorned and branded—all without painkillers (Dudley 40)”. These animals are used for the food purchased at main fast food restaurants. The most recognized fast food restaurant that mistreats animals is KFC. They have farms that keep at least four chickens in one small cage next to thousands of others. The chickens have their beaks singed off and the talons cut off to prevent any fighting. KFC is known for boiling chickens alive. How a food company can do this kind of cruelty to animals is unfathomable.

“If the farmer follows the recommendations of the *National Pork Producers,* the sow will spend virtually all of her productive life (until she is killed) in a gestation crate 2 ½ feet wide (and sometimes 2 feet) by 7 feet long by 3 feet high (Ojeda 136)”. That gives the sow a big enough space to turn around and lie down. Factory farmed hogs are confined over manure pits. The powerful fumes from the urine and feces can cause respiratory diseases in factory farm workers and animals. The pork’s industries own research shows that between 70% -90% of the persons working experience acute respiratory symptoms (Rohr 117). Not only is it wrong to keep animals in unsanitary shelters, but it is hazardous to humans as well. There should not be a farm that is unsafe towards the animals and the workers.

“To obtain the light colored meat sold as “premium” or “milk-fed” veal, calves are kept anemic by with-holding sufficient iron. To prevent muscle development and speed weight gain, the calves are allowed absolutely no exercise. Veal calves are kept in total darkness to reduce restlessness (Rohr 118-119)”. This is absolutely wrong and should not be done. No animal should have to go through this kind of process just so humans can get a high priced meat.

Many people would argue that animal experimentation is directed towards the increase of human knowledge and human welfare. Few animal experiments involve serious pain and the experimenters do their best to minimize the pain. Humans are superior to animals, so humans have the right to do animal experimentations in order to achieve important human ends. Some would say that it be unethical to experiment on humans so, therefore, animal experimentation is needed.

Many laboratories do not give the exact number of animals it has tested on. Even though scientists say they have reduced the number of animals being tested on and try not to produce much pain, there is still cruelty going on. The animals are being mistreated and there is no reason for it. There are safer, quicker, and more accurate alternatives to animal experimentation. These alternatives are cheaper than the whole animal experimentation.

“Countless animals have been surgically dismembered, drugged, starved, fatigued, frozen, electrically shocked, infected, cross-bred, madden, and killed in the belief that their behavior closely observed, would cast light on the nature of humankind (Rohr 57)”. Humans and animals are not all alike and both would have different reactions to research. In London of 2006, scientists injected six volunteers with a treatment for rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis (Watson 38). The treatment had been done on rodents with no reaction, but the human’s heads ballooned in size. This experiment is known as a false positive. A false positive is a positive result in an animal, but a negative result in a human. “Thalidomide [which caused birth defects when taken by pregnant women but showed no side effects in animals] is a perfect example of a false negative”.

“Uncritical reliance on the results of animal tests can be dangerously misleading and has cost the health and lives of tens of thousands of humans (Ojeda 104)”. April 1998, Journal of the American Medical Association describes a study that shows adverse reactions from medications as the fourth leading killer of Americans. It is well accepted that approximately 100,000 deaths per year and approximately fifteen percent of all hospitals admissions are caused by adverse medication reactions. This costs the general public over $136 billion annually.

Scientists in Europe have created a substance that acts like human skin. To make this artificial skin, they take human skin cells left over from plastic surgery. Then they grow those cells in a gel made from collagen. Scientists can use this “skin” to tests sunscreen and cosmetics. Also, a chemical called MTT can be added to the “skin” which could turn the “skin” blue, indicating the “skin” is alive during and after experiments. Scientists have also developed artificial eyes and lungs. Instead of using animals, scientists can use cell cultures. Scientists can put chemicals and drugs on cells in test tubes to see a response. If scientists use these tests to test medication then there could be a lot less deaths caused by adverse medicine reactions.

“The Old Testament forbids the deliberate, willful, sadistic, deviant, purposeless, intentional and unnecessary infliction of pain and suffering on animals, or outrageous neglect of them (failing to provide food and water) (Ojeda 137)”. In the later part of the passage of Mark, Jesus is expressing the moral protest illustrated so well by the prophets. There is no hint in the Gospels of Jesus’ of support of sacrifice itself; neither he nor his disciples practiced it. We are to save “a son or an ox” that has fallen into a well even if we must violate the Sabbath” (Luke 14:5). God’s mercy extends over all the creatures (Psalm 145).

There are some foods that contain animal parts. The substance gelatin contains horse hooves and pig skin. Many foods contain gelatin such as marshmallows, yogurt, some types of gum, gummy snacks (gummy worms and gummy bears), and jell-o. There are many people who do not know what is in gelatin. There should be no reason for those parts of the animals to be made in to food.

Animals should have equal rights because it is wrong to perform vivisection on them. Circuses abuse their privilege of being with these creatures by torturing them. Laboratories leave animals with the dead and do not use pain killers on their test subjects. Testing medications on animals can cause false negatives and false positives. Medications can have adverse reactions on humans and sometimes can be fatal. Some farms give animals poor shelters, which causes poor conditions for the animals and the workers. There are several references in the Bible, such as in Mark, Luke, Psalm, and in the Old Testament, that point out how wrong it is to mistreat animals. Animals should be liberated from harmful and sadistic cruelty brought on by laboratories, circuses, and farms.

Works Cited

Dudley, William, ed. Animal Rights. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, Inc., 2006. Print.

Ojeda, Auriana, ed. The Rights of Animals. San Diego: Bonnie Szumski, 2004. Print.

Richet, Charles. “The pros and cons of vivisection.” Arcive.org. Duckworth & CO., 1908. Web.

Rohr, Janelle, ed. Animal Rights: Opposing viewpoints. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, Inc., 1989. Print.

Watson. Stephanie. Animal testing: Issues and Ethics. New York: The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 2009. Print.

The NIV Bible. Grand Rapids: The Zondervan Corporation, 2001.

Balls, Michael, and van Zeller, A-M., and Halder, M. E. Progress in the Reduction, Refinement, and Replacement of Animal Experimentation.

Sperlinger, David. Animals in Research. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons, 1981. Print.

Alternatives to Animal use in Research, Testing, and Education. New York: Marcel Dekker, INC., 1988. Print.