

Animal Rights Movement: Non-human animals should have the same rights as humans.

Response 1 - Animals aren't human beings in the genetic sense. Therefore they shouldn't be given the same rights as humans.

1. To deny rights based upon belonging to a species is "speciesism". No different than other isms - based upon the involuntary belonging to a certain group.

Response 2 - Animals don't possess the same cognitive capacities and self awareness of humans. Therefore they shouldn't be given the same rights as humans.

1. Infants and mentally disabled persons also do not possess these characteristics. So if you are going to say animals don't have rights, then neither does a portion of humanity.
2. It seems as though we are saying that animals just can't cut it on the intellectual level. In that case, since we are given a moral status that they are not, why not show pity instead of dominance?

By this expression Regan means

that these animals are individuals with beliefs, desires, perception, memory, a sense of the future, an emotional life, preferences, the ability to initiate action in pursuit of goals, psychophysical identity over time, and an individual welfare in the sense that things can go well or badly for them.

Response 3 - Animals don't have interests or desires, they are just objects. Therefore, they don't have rights.

1. While animals may not have complex interests they do have an interest to avoid pain and suffering. Any being which possesses interests to further their well-being has a right to do so.
 - a. how do we know this? Pseudo-science answer: We know that humans produce of adrenaline when they recognize pain-inducing situations. Non-human animals also produce adrenaline when they fear for their well-being and/or life.

Response 4 - Animals are made for our consumption. We need them to survive. Therefore, animals don't have rights.

1. We know that certain societies require animal hunting to survive. Specifically, indigenous peoples. But these societies have no other options.
2. We can survive without meat-proteins and we can produce the necessary foods to replace the protein source.
 - a. vegetable agriculture is much cheaper and more sustainable than animal agriculture.

Some better responses: Local farming. Perhaps ritual farming. Maybe the appeal to hunting for oneself?

