

Animals and Ethics, day 3: Critiquing Liberation (and upload review)

Carl Cohen, “Reply to Tom Regan” (26-29)

- Cohen critiques Regan for mixing up two senses of the phrase ‘inherent value’; is his critique solid?
- Cohen claims that “we all agree that humans do have rights”, but is this actually true? And what does he mean by rights, as distinct from **interests**?
- Why is the claim made by Rollin—that interests themselves establish rights claims—“a transparent failure”?
- Cohen on Regan: “what has subjective experience must have inherent value, and what has inherent value must have rights.” (27)
- Two kinds of inherent value: ‘having interests’, and being moral agents in the Kantian sense
- Is Cohen’s logic subject to a critique from marginal cases?

R.G. Frey, “Rights, Interests, Desires, and Beliefs” (55-58)

- Two distinct notions of interest: “John has an interest in good health” (a desire) and “good health is in John’s interest” (closer to a statement of fact)...Frey argues that animals only have interests in the second sense, and therefore cannot be rights-holders.
- Do you agree with Frey that “having interest in the second sense, in the sense of having wants which can be satisfied or left unsatisfied” is a prerequisite to establishing rights claims?
- “I may as well say at once that I do not think animals can have desires. My reasons for thinking this turn largely upon my doubts that animals can have beliefs, and my doubts in this regard turn partially...upon the view that having beliefs is not compatible with the absence of language and linguistic ability.” (56)

Robert Streiffer, “In Defense of the Moral Relevance of Species Boundaries” (387-389)

- **Chimeras** and the risk of moral confusion, playing god, and tampering with nature
- Is the **yuck factor** a valid argument? (388)

Topics from third pbworks upload

- Animal Liberation Front, the animal testing controversy at UCLA, and related issues (Jessica, Matt, Kristina, Hali, Theresa)
- Wild Horse policy (Alicia)
- The NIH chimp research affair in New Mexico (Jennifer, Asma,
- Tossing possums and swinging chickens (Ricky and Danny)
- Bob barker on veal calves (Jeffrey)

Links for class discussion

- evolution poster
- four videos on chimp and bonobo intelligence
- vids on bird intelligence
- **Dan Dennett** on consciousness
- Robert Seyfarth on **theory of mind** and monkey 'language'