

## **Animal Rights and Animal Welfare – Short Paper Assignment and Guidelines**

Due Tuesday October 19 – Worth 20% of your course grade

**First option: Compare and Contrast.** Pick two of the essays we've read so far (preferably two that are directly related and in opposition to each other; you can pick two that are not directly related, but if you do so be sure to focus on an aspect in which they are related and in disagreement), and do the following:

- Briefly explain the arguments of both authors, being as unbiased as possible
- Explain the relative strengths and weaknesses of each argument, being sure to back up your analysis with evidence (i.e., don't just say which is better, but say *why* you think it's better)
- Defend the article that you think has the stronger argument

**Second option: Voice Your Opinion.** Using the material from Part One of Armstrong and Botzler (on ethics), from Peter Singer and Bernie Rollin, and from chapters 1-3 of Taylor, briefly explain some of the different ethical theories available to frame 'the way you look at animals.' (utilitarianism, deontology, contractarianism and relational ethics, virtue ethics, feminist ethics, postmodern thought, etc.). Although people are rarely *just* a utilitarian or *just* a deontologist, pick the theory that you think has the strongest arguments and defend it. This is a complex question, so for a short paper like this I'm not looking for too much depth, but rather for an understanding of the basic strengths and weaknesses of each view as they relate to animal studies, and a brief explanation (and justification) of where your opinions lie.

**Third option: Open to negotiation.** If you have a specific idea that doesn't fall under either of these categories, chances are I'd be happy to hear you out. Talk to me, or send me an email.

**On drafts:** I'm happy to look at any drafts anytime up to the Thursday before the paper is due; feel free to submit either a paper copy or send me an email, either of completed drafts or unfinished drafts—if you're not sure you're on the right track, I'm happy to look at your paper: chance as pretty good that handing in a draft would improve your grade, so I'd strongly recommend doing so.

### **Length and formatting requirements**

- Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double spaced, no spaces between paragraphs, 1-inch margins, justified
- 4-6 pages, 5 pages preferred (use page numbers)
- Use parenthetical citations for quotes [for example: (Bekoff 152)]. If drawing only from Armstrong and Botzler, no bibliography is needed, but do include one if you use any other texts or online sources.