

"Ethics and Our Treatment of Animals"

Peter Singer

Abstract

I shall begin by setting out the traditional Western view of the moral status of animals. Next I shall discuss what I refer to as the "mainstream" view today, and offer a critique of this view. I shall argue that, notwithstanding the progress made over the past 40 years, our treatment of animals remains wrong because it is "speciesist." I shall explain the concept of "speciesism" and indicate why it is not an ethically defensible view. I argue that we owe nonhuman animals equal consideration of their interests, and I shall explain the changes this view requires in our present practices regarding animals.