

BOOK REVIEW

Animals in Science

Issue 4 - Ethical Arguments & Alternatives to Animal Experiments.

A Humane Education Resource.

Resource Materials Suitable for Years 9-13 in Science & Biology.

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Published by SAFE

"Animals in Science: Ethical Arguments & Alternatives to Animal Experiments" is the fourth in a series of published resources put out by SAFE (Save Animals From Exploitation) in their Animals & Us series.

SAFE has a proud history of successful campaigns in relation to battery hen farming, circus animal relocation, and pig farming cruelty. So it is not surprising that they have produced such a high quality publication that will be of interest to the general reader, as well as to the students and teachers for whom it was designed and who will be fortunate enough to use it.

The previous issues are: 1 - *Battery Hen Farming in New Zealand*; 2 - *Animal Rights, Human Values, Social Action*, and 3 - *Animal on Show: A Critical Analysis of the Animal Entertainment Industry*.

Fittingly, the Foreword is by Jonathan Balcombe, eminent animal behaviour scientist, and the Introduction is by Andrew Knight, an Australian vet now based in England, who pioneered studies questioning the necessity for, and validity of, animal experiments, and —importantly— the validity of extrapolating from animals to humans at all. Extended extracts from books by both experts appear in the resources section, as well as extracts from books by Marc Bekoff, Tom Regan, and J.S. and C. Ray Greek, among others.

The accompanying DVD contains 12 visual and oral texts and 51 images, and the website offers further free information for both teachers and students on enhancing critical thinking about the relation between humans and animals.

There are four areas of study: *Rats Have No Gall-Bladder*; *Do Animals Play Fair?*; *Bodies Apart*; and *Sentience is the Bedrock of Ethics*.

One of my responses on reading it was that there should be a requirement for referencing, and a preferred format. I was impressed by the Achievement criteria, and the clarity of how background beliefs helped ground vivisection. With reference to the areas cited on p.15, it seems to me 'pain and suffering' comes under, and in fact grounds, 'ethics', and should certainly be the second subheading rather than the fourth. The overview of possible areas of study in genetic engineering—transgenics, cloning, xenotransplantation—is exemplary, as are the instructions to students on conducting research and the examples of results tables and ethograms. The Ethogram for Dogs is so good I will be taking it to the dog park with me to observe the details of the dogs at play. So it has made an amateur scientist—ethologist, anyway!—of this animal ethicist.

The Resources, Links, and Glossary sections are also excellent, in keeping with the quality of the whole, and the editing and layout is eye-catching and professional.

It is hard to imagine such a project being better executed. It is sure to encourage future scientists and future animal advocates, and I commend it most highly.

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