

## OVERVIEW

**Animal Welfare** supports humane treatment and use of animals and believes that humans have a responsibility for their care. Animal Welfare includes responsible care of animals used by humans for service, research, food, education, those kept in zoos or sanctuaries, and especially those animals kept by pet owners. Animal welfare is based on a principle of ownership of animals, a common sense approach that animals should be treated well and that animal cruelty is wrong. Animal welfare sets standards and guidelines for animal use and management based on sound veterinary and animal husbandry research and practices.

**Animal Rights (AR)** is a radical belief that attempts to elevate animals to equality with humans by applying human interpretations of morality.

The platform calls for an end to all traditional uses of animals, such as use of animals for food or clothing. Animal rights agenda opposes hunting, trapping, fishing; zoos; rodeos; racing; use of animals in sports; use of animals in research or teaching; breeding domestic animals; keeping them as pets.

Most animal rights activists believe that working for animal welfare should be done as a temporary measure until animal use can be abolished.

**The terms are not interchangeable.**

# NCRAOA

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance

*North Carolina's leading  
voice for responsible  
animal ownership*



### Our Mission:

- Educate the public and provide resources and information about animal care and training
- Identify areas of need and assist communities and individuals in reaching sensible solutions to animal issues
- Support reasonable and humane animal welfare laws
- Oppose groups and those individuals that would restrict the rights of responsible animal owners.

NCRAOA

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## Animal Rights It's not animal welfare



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## THE ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The modern animal rights movement is credited to Australian philosopher Peter Singer who wrote *Animal Liberation* which is the bible for animal rights activists. His book drew comparisons between discrimination against humans (racism) and discrimination against animals (speciesism). Singer says "The argument for extending the principle of equality beyond our own species is simple, that it amounts to no more than a clear understanding of the nature of the principle of equal consideration of interests." His utilitarian philosophy is based on a belief that there is nothing to distinguish humans that makes them better or different than animals. Therefore, by withholding equal rights from animals we (humans) are guilty of discrimination.

By emphasizing our similarities to animals, this movement seeks equality between people and animals, claiming the separation of man from animals is artificial and man-made.

Animal rights teaches that since humans and animals are equal we have no right to use them for our benefit.

By teaching that human and animal lives and rights are equal, the animal rights movement has diminished the value of human life.

## HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES (HSUS)

Established in 1954, HSUS began as an animal welfare organization. Over the years HSUS assimilated leaders and ideas from the animal rights movement, moving closer to the complete animal rights ideology it maintains today. Doris Day Animal League was the most recent acquisition. Through effective marketing and campaigns directed at the public's natural love of animals to solicit funds, HSUS has grown to be a household word and an industry giant worth close to \$120 million. Contrary to popular belief, HSUS does not operate local animal shelters.

- HSUS opposes rodeos
- HSUS opposes hunting
- HSUS opposes zoos except as conservation programs
- HSUS opposes use of animals in research and testing
- HSUS opposes commercial breeding of pets

Quoting Michael Markarian. Executive VP Humane Society of the United States; Past President, Fund for Animals; Board member Institute for Animals and Society: *"..your everyday meat-eaters and cosmetics users; they are not vivisectors, they are not slaughterhouse operators, and they have basic feelings of compassion. But they are accustomed to eating, wearing, and using animal products, and they need to be convinced to give them up. They can be won over—slowly but surely they are being won over—...."*

## RADICAL SUPPORTERS OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

### PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)

We at PETA believe that it would have been in the animals' best interests if the institution of "pet keeping"—i.e., breeding animals to be kept and regarded as "pets"—never existed. This selfish desire to possess animals and receive love from them causes immeasurable suffering . . . depriving them of the opportunity to engage in their natural behavior. (*PETA website*)

### ALDF (Animal Legal Defense Fund)

According to their website, ALDF describes itself as attorneys active in shaping the emerging field of animal law. They specialize in filing groundbreaking lawsuits to expand the boundaries of animal law. ALDF advocates changing the legal status of animals from property to personhood.

When and how legal rights for animals will be established is as yet unknown. We are only beginning to explore the legal theories that may be argued. *Joyce Tischler, Executive Director Animal Law, Cases and Materials, 2002*

"Everything we are doing lays the foundation for the one day when animals will have rights" ...."We need to get in their faces and sue the animal users so often they don't know which courtroom they're supposed to appear in next." *Valerie Stanley, ALDF Attorney June, 1996*