

Animal Rights vs. Animal Welfare

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

Animals, domestic and wild, have for centuries provided emotional and economic value to people. It is important for everyone to understand the need for animal welfare, and what factors of animal care and use are really in the animal's best interest. We have a responsibility to provide quality care to all animals that touch our lives. While animals have a "right" to that care and protection, "animal rights" - as used by activists in today's animal rights movement - has an entirely different meaning. PETA, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Humane USA, Fund for Animals, Animal Legal Defense Fund, In Defense of Animals, Doris Day Animal League, Farm Sanctuary, Animal Protection Institute, Animal Liberation Front, SHAC, Institute for Animals & Society – nearly 100 animal rights organizations in all – support "animal rights" which means abolishing people's ownership and use of all animals.

Animal Welfare:

- ✓ Promotes humane treatment of animals
- ✓ Believes that humans have a responsibility to care for animals and insure their well-being
- ✓ Supports education to improve the well-being of animals, both domestic and wild
- ✓ Supports the human-animal bond; acknowledges the benefit to people from interacting with animals
- ✓ Supports good husbandry practices
- ✓ Supports managing animal populations by hunting
- ✓ Supports keeping animals in zoos, enjoying animal sports, animal shows and fairs; supports animals in movies, circuses, and on stage
- ✓ Supports responsible pet breeding and ownership
- ✓ Supports use of animals in research under appropriate guidelines for advancement of technology and medicine
- ✓ Supports training and use of animals in service to assist people with disabilities

Animal Rights:

- ✗ Is based on a moral and ethical philosophy that no species, including humans, is better or more important than another
- ✗ Believes pet ownership is a form of slavery
- ✗ Believes humans have no right to use animals for food, clothing, research, or for entertainment (including zoos, aquariums, rodeos, circuses, and pets)
- ✗ Believes animals should lead their own lives without human interference
- ✗ Believes the life of a human and life of an animal are of equal value
- ✗ Opposes purposeful breeding of domestic animals and pets
- ✗ Opposes hunting and fishing
- ✗ Believes current legal definition of animals as property should be ended or changed
- ✗ Believes animals should either be "self-owned" or have legal standing of "personhood"
- ✗ Plays on sympathies of animal lovers to pass laws restricting owners' rights

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