

# Peter Singer on Animal Ethics

- 1. **Who** is Peter Singer and what are his key ideas on animal ethics?
- 2. **How** do Peter Singer's key ideas on animal ethics work?
- 3. **Why** are Peter Singer's key ideas on animal ethics important?

1. **Who** is Peter Singer and what are his key ideas on animal ethics?

Peter Singer (b. 1946) is an Australian philosopher and animal rights campaigner. He received a BA and MA from the University of Melbourne in 1967 and 1969 respectively, and a BPhil from the University of Oxford in 1971. In 1975, he published his argument for vegetarianism, *Animal Liberation*, after a conversation with a vegetarian friend that he describes as the decisive formative experience of his life. Make a note about who he is and what he has done.

Peter Singer (b. 1946)

To understand Peter Singer's key ideas on animal ethics, it is necessary to understand the meanings of the key terms "egalitarianism" and "vegetarianism". Write definitions for "egalitarianism" and "vegetarianism".

Egalitarianism	Vegetarianism

Peter Singer introduced three key ideas about animal ethics in his book, *Animal Liberation*. Make a note about three of his key ideas.

Key Ideas of Peter Singer on Animal Ethics	
1	
2	
3	

2. **How** do Peter Singer's key ideas on animal ethics work?

Peter Singer's key ideas form an argument that calls for the consideration of animal interests in ethical decision-making, and the widespread adoption of vegetarianism. In brief, his key ideas require significant change in the way human beings live. Explain how each key idea supports his view.

How the Key Ideas of Peter Singer on Animal Ethics Work		
The principle of equality requires consideration of animal interests.	Ignoring animal interests is a type of discrimination against animals.	Proper application of the principle of equality requires vegetarianism.

3. **Why** are Peter Singer's key ideas on animal ethics important?

The key ideas of Peter Singer are important for three reasons in particular. Make a note about why his key ideas are important.

Why the Key Ideas of Peter Singer on Animal Ethics Are Important	
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