

Situation Ethics and Animal Ethics

- 1. **What** is situation ethics and how does it work?
- 2. **How** is situation ethics applied to issues in animal ethics?
- 3. **Why** is the application of situation ethics to issues in animal ethics important?

1. **What** is situation ethics and how does it work?

Situation ethics is a branch of normative ethics; like others, it is concerned with investigating different frameworks that help decide whether an action is right or wrong. Different normative ethical theories provide different frameworks for ethical decision-making (e.g. natural law), and situation ethics is one of these frameworks; it is usually associated with the work of Joseph Fletcher (1905-1991). Write a definition for "situation ethics".

Situation Ethics

Situation ethics has various components that are relevant to its application to issues in animal ethics, particularly within the version presented by Joseph Fletcher. Make a note about the various components (i.e. rules, situations, love (agapē), and personhood) and how they work.

How Situation Ethics Works	
Rules	Situations
Love (Agapē)	Personhood

2. **How** is situation ethics applied to issues in animal ethics?

Situation ethics can be applied to issues in animal ethics, including farming, medicine and science, and sport, by using it as a framework to guide human actions when addressing ethical decisions relevant to these areas of debate. Generally, the version of situation ethics presented by Joseph Fletcher promotes actions that achieve the most

loving outcomes for human beings, and accepts actions that involve using animals to achieve loving outcomes for human beings (because animals do not have personhood). Make a note about how situation ethics is applied to each issue in animal ethics, and what human actions it allows.

How Situation Ethics Is Applied to Issues in Animal Ethics	
Issue	How
Farming	
Medicine and Science	
Sport	

3. **Why** is the application of situation ethics to issues in animal ethics important?

The application of situation ethics to issues in animal ethics is important, because it influences what the lives of animals look like, and the ethical decision-making of human beings who follow this normative ethical framework. Make a note of three reasons why the application of situation ethics to issues in animal ethics is important.

Why the Application of Situation Ethics to Issues in Animal Ethics is Important	
1	
2	
3	