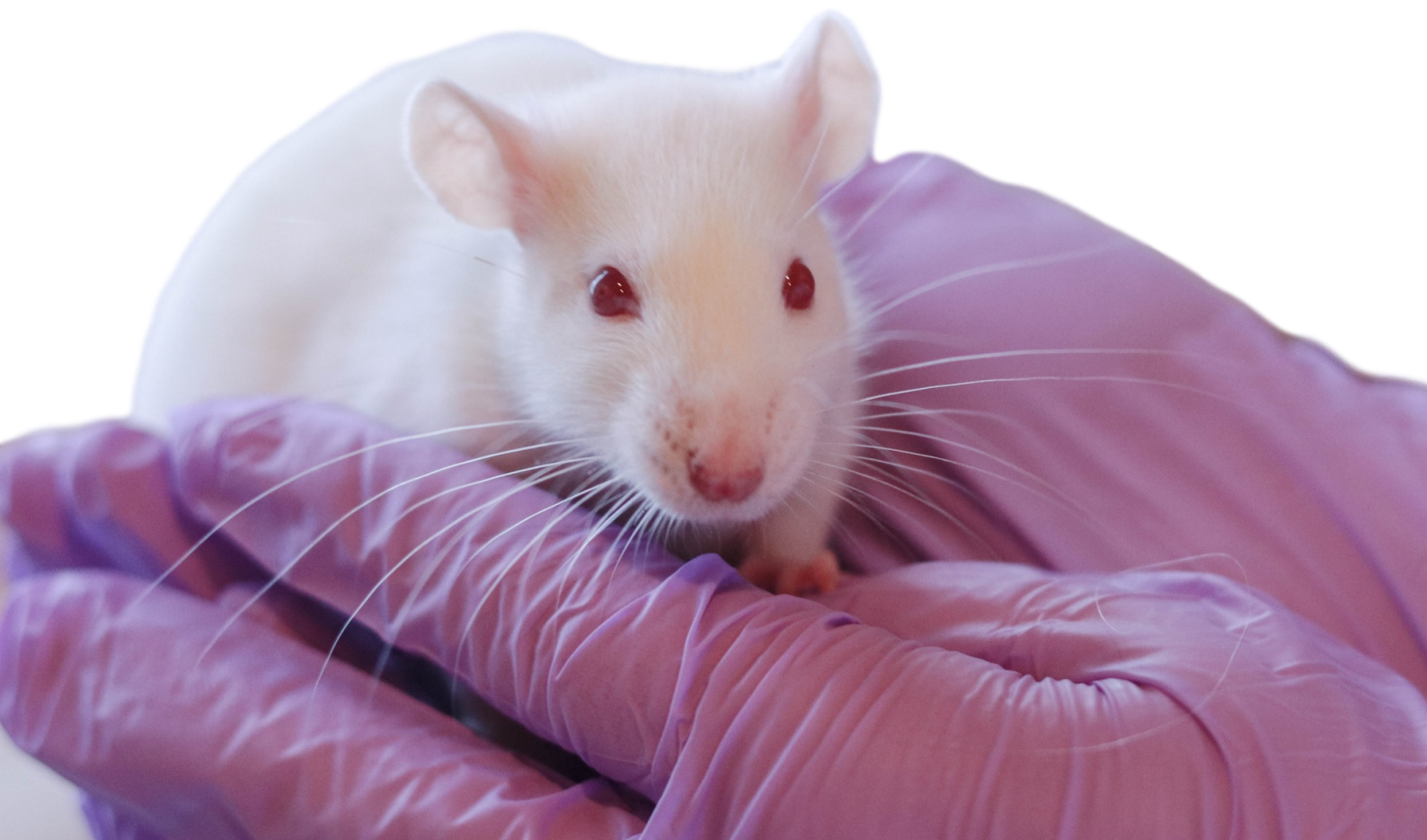


Ethics

Applied Ethics

Animal Ethics

Work Booklet



Preface

This work booklet is all about animal ethics. It surveys the important elements of this emotive and thought-provoking branch of applied ethics, introduces significant concepts and issues (like the use of animals for food, medicine and science, and sport), and investigates the ideas of the most famous thinker in the area, Peter Singer. It also covers how normative ethical theories (natural law, situation ethics, and virtue ethics) are applied to issues in animal ethics. It is a comprehensive resource, and provides clearly arranged spaces for organised note-taking.

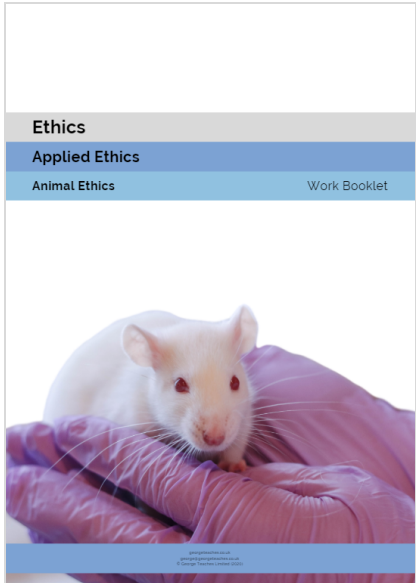
This work booklet follows the video lessons available at George Teaches, and is designed for use in conjunction with them. It is accompanied by information sheets, which are also available in a single information booklet. Additional materials on Peter Singer can be accessed online, which comprehensively summarise his famous work on animal ethics, Animal Liberation. Throughout this work booklet, key questions are used as subtitles, key terms and key thinkers are highlighted in separate boxes, and areas for the consolidation of notes are provided (most notably at the beginning).

I am deeply indebted to my colleagues and students for the production of this publication, which has been inspired by their desire for more extensive and holistic resources for teaching and learning about ethics. At all times, I have attempted to produce material that covers popular and important content, but is not confined by the straitjacket of any particular curriculum or specification. Consequently, whilst this covers all of the relevant content for animal ethics at A Level, it goes far beyond. My earnest hope is that it is capable of both supporting students of all abilities and challenging the most able to embark upon their own self-directed enquiries. Above all, it is my sincerest wish that it proves beneficial to both your teaching and your learning of animal ethics, be you teacher or student (or, as I am, be you both).



George Teaches

London, UK
10 April 2020



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Key Terms and Key Thinkers in Animal Ethics

Animal Ethics	Anthropocentrism
Animal Ethics	Biocentrism
Egalitarianism	Natural Law
Personhood	Sentience
Situation Ethics	Speciesism
Vegetarianism	Virtue Ethics

**Virtue Ethics
and Animal
Ethics**

**Situation
Ethics and
Animal Ethics**

**Animal
Ethics**

**Natural Law and
Animal Ethics**

**Introduction to
Animal Ethics**

**Issues in
Animal Ethics**

**Peter Singer on
Animal Ethics**

Introduction to Animal Ethics

- 1. **What** is animal ethics and how is it approached?
- 2. **How** do the approaches to animal ethics work?
- 3. **Why** are animal ethics and its approaches important?

1. **What** is animal ethics and how is it approached?

Ethics is a large field that can be divided into three branches: applied ethics, meta-ethics, and normative ethics. To understand animal ethics, it is necessary to understand where it is located in the field of ethics. Write definitions for "applied ethics" and "animal ethics".

Applied Ethics	Animal Ethics

There are two significant approaches to animal ethics, and every human being on Earth explicitly or implicitly adopts one of them. There are important differences between the two approaches, because they take opposing views about the value of animal life. Make a note about the two approaches (i.e. human supremacy and animal liberation).

Approaches to Animal Ethics	
Human Supremacy	Animal Liberation

2. **How** do the approaches to animal ethics work?

The approaches to animal ethics (i.e. human supremacy and animal liberation) are usually motivated by underlying beliefs. Human supremacy is usually motivated by anthropocentrism, and animal liberation is usually motivated by biocentrism. Make a note about these two beliefs (i.e. anthropocentrism and biocentrism).

Anthropocentrism	Biocentrism

Human supremacy and animal liberation are justified in different ways. Human supremacy is sometimes justified with an argument based on human species membership (i.e. speciesism), or an argument based on personhood. Animal liberation is usually justified with an argument based on sentience. Make a note about these three key terms.

Speciesism	Personhood

Sentience

3. **Why** are animal ethics and its approaches important?

In brief, animal ethics and their approaches are very important, because they affect how much pain and suffering animals experience. Consider the differences between human supremacy and animal liberation approaches, and make a note about why they are important.

Why the Approaches to Animal Ethics Are Important		
Approach	How	Why
Human Supremacy Antropocentrism	Consider human beings in ethical decision-making.	
Animal Liberation Biocentrism	Consider sentient animals and human beings equally in ethical decision-making.	
Animal Liberation Biocentrism	Consider animals and human beings equally in ethical decision-making.	

Issues in Animal Ethics

- 1. **What** are the key issues in animal ethics?
- 2. **How** are the key issues in animal ethics approached?
- 3. **Why** are the approaches to the key issues in animal ethics important?

1. **What** are the key issues in animal ethics?

Human beings cause a lot of pain and suffering to animals; however, some human activities are especially harmful, and inflict considerable quantities of pain on millions or billions of animals every year. These activities are all key issues in animal ethics, because they stimulate significant debate about the extent to which human beings should be allowed to inflict pain and suffering on other living things. Make a note about three of the key issues in animal ethics (i.e. farming, medicine and science, and sport).

Key Issues in Animal Ethics		
Farming	Medicine and Science	Sport

2. **How** are the key issues in animal ethics approached?

The two significant approaches to animal ethics are human supremacy and animal liberation. Farming, medicine and science, and sport are addressed differently depending on which approach is adopted. Make a note about how the key issues in animal ethics are addressed.

How Human Supremaists Approach Key Issues in Animal Ethics	
Approach	How
Human Supremacy Anthropocentrism	

How Members of the Animal Liberation Movement Approach Key Issues in Animal Ethics	
Approach	How
Animal Liberation Biocentrism Moderate	
Animal Liberation Biocentrism Radical	

3. **Why** are the approaches to the key issues in animal ethics important?

The approaches to the use of animals in farming, medicine and science, and sport influence what the lives of animals look like. Make a note of how human supremacists and members of the animal liberation movement suggest animals should live.

How Human Supremacists and Members of the Animal Liberation Movement Suggest Animals Should Live		
Human Supremacy Anthropocentrism	Animal Liberation Biocentrism Moderate	Animal Liberation Biocentrism Radical

Beyond what life looks like for animals, and the pain and suffering that is inflicted on them, how animal issues are addressed is important for other reasons. Make a note of three additional reasons why the approaches to the key issues in animal ethics are important.

Why the Approaches to the Key Issues in Animal Ethics are Important	
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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	
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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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Natural Law and Animal Ethics

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

1. **What** is natural law and how does it work?

Natural law is a branch of normative ethics, and normative ethics 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, and natural law is one of these frameworks. Although natural law is referred to as a single framework, it is actually a group of frameworks, because various thinkers have presented different versions over the years. Write a definition for "natural law".

Natural Law

Natural law has various components that are relevant to its application to issues in animal ethics, particularly within the version presented by Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274). Make a note about the various components (i.e. nature, reason, human purpose, and the hierarchy of souls) and how they work.

How Natural Law Works	
Nature	Reason
Human Purpose	Hierarchy of Souls

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

Natural law 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 natural law presented by Thomas Aquinas promotes actions that help human beings to

achieve their God-given purpose (i.e. union with God), and accepts actions that involve using animals to achieve this purpose (because animals are lower down Aristotle's hierarchy of souls than human beings). Make a note about how natural law is applied to each issue in animal ethics, and what human actions it allows.

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

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

The application of natural law 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 (e.g. Catholics). Make a note of three reasons why the application of natural law to issues in animal ethics is important.

Why the Application of Natural Law to Issues in Animal Ethics is Important	
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3	

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	
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Virtue Ethics and Animal Ethics

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

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

Virtue ethics is a branch of normative ethics, which 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, and virtue ethics is one of these frameworks. As a theory, it is most famously associated with Aristotle (385-323 BCE), although Elizabeth Anscombe and Rosalind Hursthouse revived it during the twentieth century. Write a definition for "virtue ethics".

Virtue Ethics

Virtue ethics has various components that are relevant to its application to issues in animal ethics. Make a note about the various components (i.e. virtue, action, human flourishing (eudaimonia), and the hierarchy of souls) and how they work.

How Virtue Ethics Works	
Virtue	Action
Human Flourishing (Eudaimonía)	Hierarchy of Souls

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

Virtue 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, Aristotle's presentation of virtue ethics promotes acting in accordance with virtues in order to achieve

human flourishing (eudaimonía), and accepts actions that involve using animals to fulfil this purpose (because animals are lower down his hierarchy of souls than human beings). Make a note about how virtue ethics is applied to each issue in animal ethics, and what human actions it allows.

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

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

The application of virtue 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 virtue ethics to issues in animal ethics is important.

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