

Critique on Discussing Animal Rights and Animal Research

By: Prakash Poudyal

Research Question or Problem

The purpose of the article is clearly stated on page 90. The purpose of the article is to examine the relevancy of animal rights issues to be discussed at the psychology classroom.

Introduction

The introduction paragraph presented in this article has been able to provide a clear picture as to why the study was conducted. Nineteen references are cited, including one author's note. In this article, Herzog examined "the reasons why discussion of animal rights is relevant to students taking psychology courses" (Herzog, 1990, p. 90). The article also briefs two major philosophical positions used by animal activists to address the issue, such as the Utilitarian Argument and the Rights Argument.

Methodology

The author formed the Animal Care and Use Committee consisting various

groups of students. They are asked to make their ethical decision on the proposal submitted for the scientific research. The proposal includes information such as "goals and potential benefits of research as well as any discomfort or injury that they may cause the animal subject" (Herzog, 1990, p. 92). As an exercise, students then instructed "to evaluate and either approve or reject research proposal submitted by faculty members who want to use animal for their research" (Herzog, 1990, p. 92). Students are also asked to suggest experimental design as well as "to generate discussion and critical thinking" (Herzog, 1990, p. 91). Four cases were presented to the students. The author used this exercise with 150 students in five classes. Finally, an anonymous evaluation of the exercise was collected from each of the students. More than a dozen relevant literatures have been reviewed and correctly used in the article.

Results

The findings are clearly mentioned to support the essence of the article. One-hundred-forty-eight students, out of one-hundred-fifty, supported the need of such exercise in the psychology classroom.

Discussion

Student, who is taking psychology classes, should be able to explore an ethical issues of animal right. This issue is directly related their lives. The author of the article noted questions: "What are the essential differences between other animals and humans? Psychologists must be prepared to confront this challenge in their roles as scientists and teachers" (Herzog, 1990, p. 93)." Today's students may be tomorrow's teacher, therefore, today's students must understand this ethical issue so that they will be able to explain their successors.

List of References

All references mentioned in this article are consistent and cited correctly. The references were from a variety of sources, ranging from 1895 to 1993.

Personal Reaction

After reading this article, I am able to enhance my understanding of the issues of the animal use for biomedical research and the various philosophical positions held by various scholars such as Singer, Regan and Rollin. I support the idea of Reformers. We must try to eliminate as much suffering as possible. Relating to this article, I have a personal experience that might be making this article very interested to me. I am from Nepal. Every year we celebrate our biggest festival called Dashain. In this festival, workers from slaughterhouse come to our own home to behead a goat. When I was child I used to think that this was a bad practice to celebrate any religious festival. When I became young and saw the beheading practice, I changed my mind. In this practice, several goats are lined up and beheaded one by one. These goats can see other fellow goats beheaded in front of their own eyes, but none of them show any anger or any feelings of fear, rather they are relaxed

and enjoy eating their feeding. Their behavior suggested me that they don't possess any value of their own life. They were acting like a Hollywood's remote control creatures. Then I started to think that they are made for other animal like humans, just to be a part of a healthy eco system. Now I have given up my vegetarian thought.

On the other hand, every drugs in the market may have been tested on animals. Therefore, if a person wants to stop using animals in biomedical research, he/she should either stop

taking these medicines or he/she himself should join the team to volunteer to test those medicines. It is possible to attempt to reduce the suffering; however, stopping animals in biomedical research cannot be possible as long as we want to use any medical drug to cure ourselves. We need more research on how to "eliminate as much suffering as possible" (Herzog, 1990, p. 90) as we begin to introduce more potent medicine to cure ourselves and other animals that we care.

References

[\[Click Here For References\]](#)