

The Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics Series

Series editors: **Andrew Linzey** and **Priscilla N. Cohn**

In recent years there has been a growing interest in the ethics of our treatment of animals. Philosophers have led the way and now a range of other scholars have followed, from historians to social scientists. From being a marginal issue, animals have become an emerging issue in ethics and in multidisciplinary inquiry. This series explores the challenges that animal ethics poses, both conceptually and practically, to traditional understandings of human–animal relations.

Specifically, the series will:

- provide a range of key introductory and advanced texts that map out ethical positions on animals;
- publish pioneering work written by new, as well as accomplished, scholars;
- produce texts from a variety of disciplines that are multidisciplinary in character or have multidisciplinary relevance.

Titles include:

ANIMALS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Why Treating Animals Better Is Critical to Human Welfare

Aysha Akhtar

AN INTRODUCTION TO ANIMALS AND POLITICAL THEORY

Alasdair Cochrane

THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS

Andrew Knight

POPULAR MEDIA AND ANIMAL ETHICS

Claire Molloy

ANIMALS, EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY

Siobhan O'Sullivan

SOCIAL WORK AND ANIMALS

A Moral Introduction

Thomas Ryan

AN INTRODUCTION TO ANIMALS AND THE LAW

Joan Schaffner

Forthcoming titles:

HUMAN ANIMAL RELATIONS

The Obligation to Care

Mark Bernstein

ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN AGGRESSION

Eleonora Gullone

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSICAL WORLD

Ethical Perceptions

Alastair Harden

POWER, KNOWLEDGE, ANIMALS

Lisa Johnson

AN INTRODUCTION TO ANIMALS AND SOCIOLOGY

Kay Peggs

The Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics Series

Series Standing Order ISBN 978-0-230-57686-5 Hardback

978-0-230-57687-2 Paperback

(outside North America only)

You can receive future titles in this series as they are published by placing a standing order. Please contact your bookseller or, in case of difficulty, write to us at the address below with your name and address, the title of the series and the ISBN quoted above.

Customer Services Department, Macmillan Distribution Ltd, Houndmills,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS, England

Animals and Public Health

Why Treating Animals Better Is Critical to Human Welfare

Aysha Akhtar

*Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, UK, and the US Food and Drug Administration,
North Potomac, Maryland, USA*

palgrave
macmillan



© Aysa Akhtar 2012

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2012 978-0-230-24973-8

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6–10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

Any person who does any unauthorized act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted her right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 2012 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Palgrave Macmillan in the UK is an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan in the US is a division of St Martin's Press LLC, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

Palgrave® and Macmillan® are registered trademarks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-349-32091-2

ISBN 978-0-230-35852-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1057/9780230358522

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources. Logging, pulping and manufacturing processes are expected to conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12

To Dad (Abu), for teaching me the value of an education

This page intentionally left blank

Contents

<i>Series Preface</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
1 The Welfare of Animals and Its Relevance to Our Health	1
2 Victims of Abuse: Making the Connection	27
3 Lions, Tigers and Bears: The Global Trade in Animals	52
4 Foul Farms: The State of Animal Agriculture	86
5 Animal Agriculture: Our Health and Our Environment	117
6 The Costs of Animal Experiments	132
7 The New Public Health	168
<i>Notes</i>	174
<i>Index</i>	235

Series Preface

This is a new book series for a new field of inquiry: animal ethics.

In recent years, there has been growing interest in the ethics of our treatment of animals. Philosophers have led the way and now a range of other scholars have followed, from historians to social scientists. From being a marginal issue, animals have become an emerging issue in ethics and in multidisciplinary inquiry.

In addition, a rethink of the status of animals has been fueled by a range of scientific investigations which have revealed the complexity of animal sentience, cognition and awareness. The ethical implications of this new knowledge are yet to be properly evaluated, but it is becoming clear that the old view that animals are mere things, tools, machines or commodities cannot be sustained ethically.

But it is not only philosophy and science that are putting animals on the agenda. Increasingly, in Europe and the USA, animals are becoming a political issue as political parties vie for the 'green' and 'animal' vote. In turn, political scientists are beginning to look again at the history of political thought in relation to animals, and historians are beginning to revisit the political history of animal protection.

As animals grow as an issue of importance, so there have been more collaborative academic ventures leading to conference volumes, special journal issues and, indeed, new academic animal journals. Moreover, we have witnessed the growth of academic courses, as well as university posts, in animal ethics, animal welfare, animal rights, animal law, animals and philosophy, human–animal studies, critical animal studies, animals and society, animals in literature, and animals and religion—tangible signs that a new academic discipline is emerging.

'Animal ethics' is the new term for the academic exploration of the moral status of the non-human—an exploration that explicitly involves a focus on what we owe animals morally and that also helps us to understand the influences (social, legal, cultural, religious and political) that legitimate animal abuse. This series explores the challenges that animal ethics poses, both conceptually and practically, to traditional understandings of human–animal relations.

The series is needed for three reasons:

1. to provide the texts that will service the new university courses on animals;
2. to support the increasing number of students studying and academics researching in animal-related fields;
3. because there is currently no book series that is a focus for multidisciplinary research in the field.

Specifically, the series will

1. provide a range of key introductory and advanced texts that map out ethical positions on animals;
2. publish pioneering work written by new, as well as by accomplished, scholars;
3. produce texts from a variety of disciplines that are multidisciplinary in character or have multidisciplinary relevance.

The new *Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics* series is the result of a unique partnership between Palgrave Macmillan and the Ferrater Mora Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, UK. It is an integral part of the mission of the center to put animals on the intellectual agenda by facilitating academic research and publication. The series is also a natural complement to one of the center's other major projects, the *Journal of Animal Ethics*. The center is an independent think tank for the advancement of progressive thought about animals, and it is the first of its kind in the world. It aims to demonstrate rigorous intellectual inquiry and the highest standards of scholarship. It strives to be a world-class center of academic excellence in its field.

We invite academics to visit the center's website at www.oxfordanimaethics.com and to contact us with new book proposals for the series.

Andrew Linzey and Priscilla N. Cohn
Series Editors

Acknowledgments

A good friend of mine who is an author once told me that writing is a lonely occupation. It certainly can be, but I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by incredibly smart family members, friends and colleagues who continually served as sounding boards and allowed me to step outside of my own thoughts throughout the writing of this book. I would never have been able to formulate the ideas presented here without my friend Greg Goodale. As a rhetorician, Greg challenged me to fine-tune my arguments and constantly helped me get ‘unstuck’ whenever I had a mental block (which was not infrequent). My sister Jabeen, an accomplished author, provided useful suggestions to ‘jazz up’ the writing style. Allison George had the miserable task of reviewing, editing and cleaning up all of my draft chapters. Her help is truly appreciated. My sister Sahar and brother-in-law William Wojtach, both philosophers, helped make sure that my philosophical arguments were sound and my coverage of the topic accurate. Tom Beauchamp also provided extremely helpful comments on this topic.

Dr John Pippin’s brilliant insights into medical research have greatly influenced my chapter on animal experimentation. His review of that chapter was immensely helpful. Dr Andrew Knight’s review of the animal experimentation chapter (Chapter 6) is also greatly appreciated. Justin Goodman, Thomas Hartung, Alka Chadna, Ray Greek, Andre Menache, Jarrod Bailey and Jonathan Balcombe were all wonderful in providing answers or sharing their research when I desperately needed facts and figures. Andrew Linzey, Priscilla Cohn, and my editors and liaisons at Palgrave Macmillan – Priyanka Gibbons, Melanie Blair and Cherline Daniel – allowed me the tremendous opportunity of publishing this book and guided me throughout the process. I must especially thank Andrew Linzey, who bamboozled me into writing the book in the first place. Without his urging, I would never have considered it. Even though I cursed his name at times (lovingly, of course) when I was sick of my own writing, I can now say that he was right. This book needed to be written.

While working on this book, I had very little time for my husband Patrick. He was always gracious, though, in allowing me the space and time I needed to meet my deadline. He even took over my share

of the household chores to help free up my time, including making the bed (which is a big deal for him!). Patrick's support and our daily conversations about my book helped keep me focus on the main theme. Most of all, I am so very, very grateful for the daily humor he has brought into my life.

I am also thankful to my friends and colleagues in public health who work tirelessly and often thanklessly to alleviate human suffering. I hope that this book helps them to also recognize the tremendous suffering we cause to animals and how their poor treatment in turn harms human health. Perhaps then we can start to find improved ways to better the lives of humans and non-human animals alike.

Lastly, since I work for the US Government and the Food and Drug Administration, I must include the following disclaimer: 'The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not represent the official position of the US Food and Drug Administration or the US Government.'