

A Short History of Animal Ethics

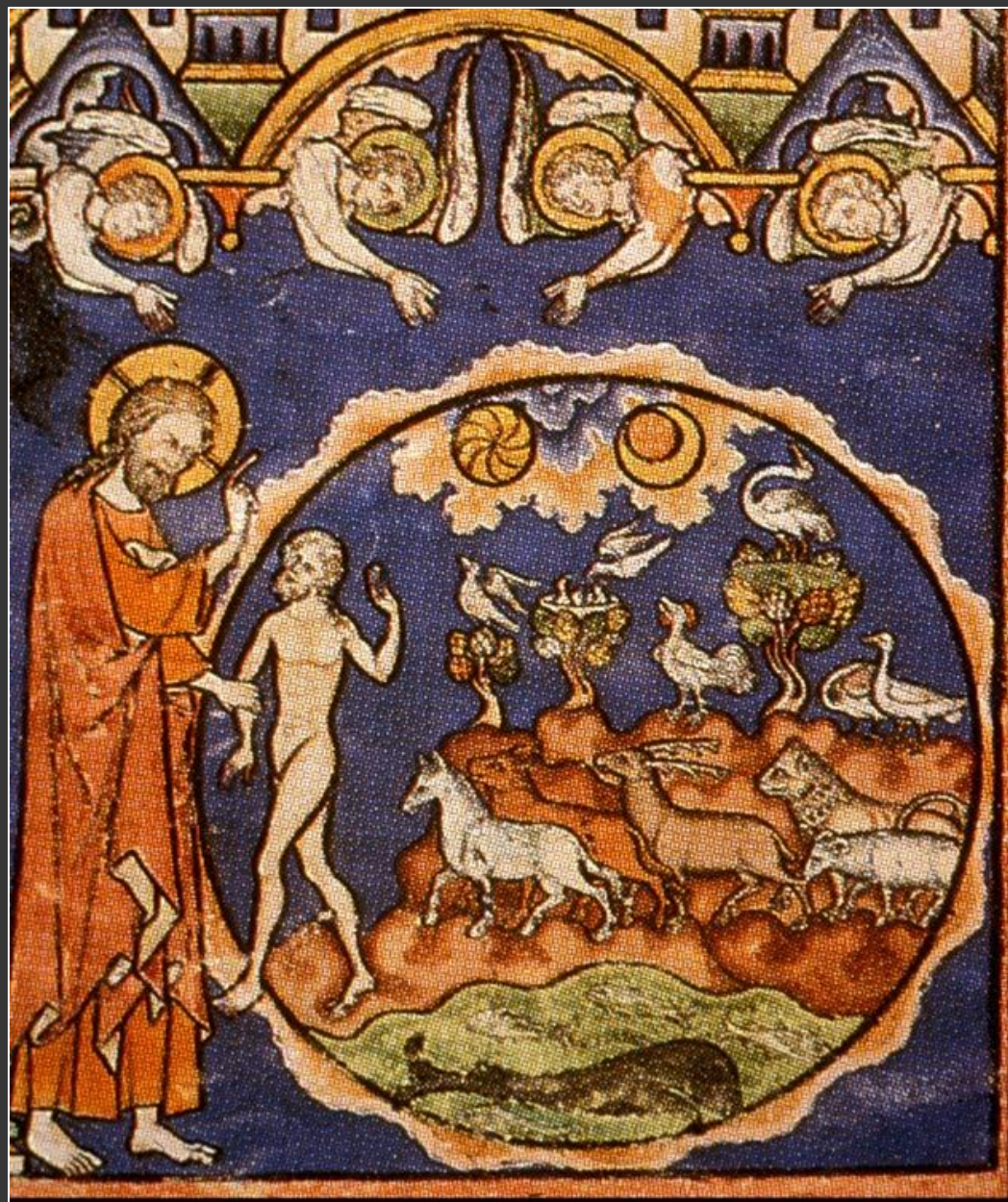
David Fraser
Animal Welfare Program
University of British Columbia

- traditional views of the human-animal relationship and their ethical implications
- how these ethical ideas relate to more formal categories of ethical theory
- current developments that challenge existing approaches
- a direction for the future



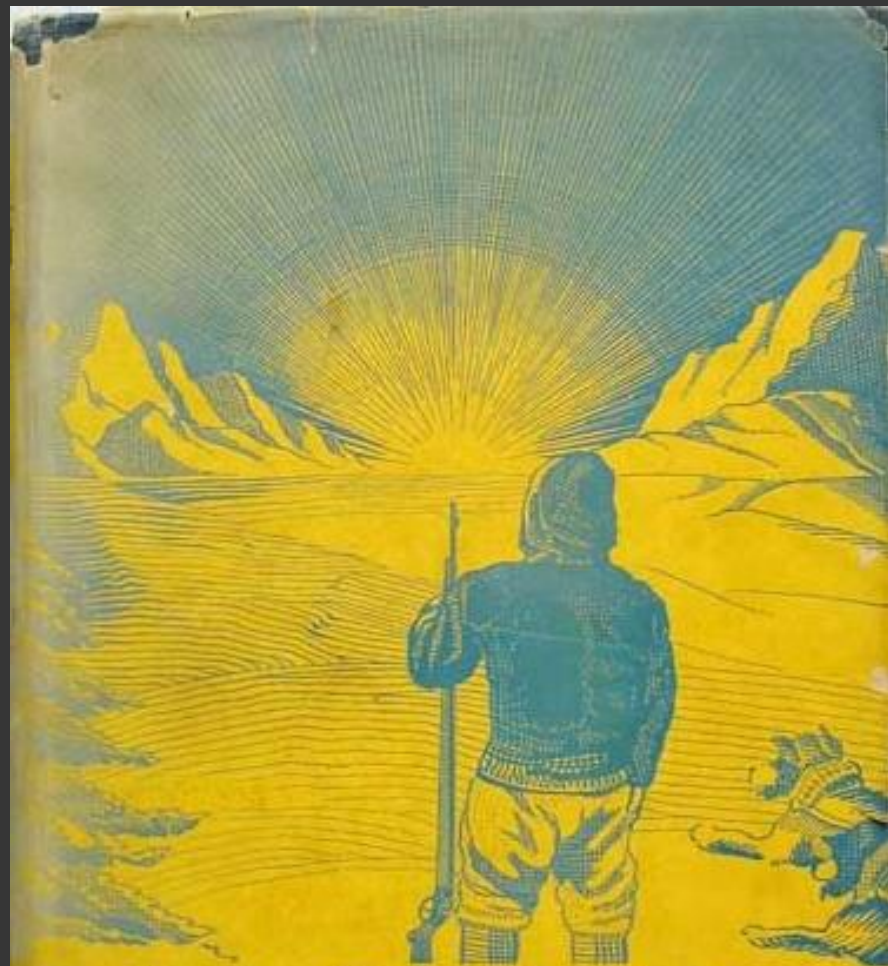
Hunting culture





Pastoralist culture

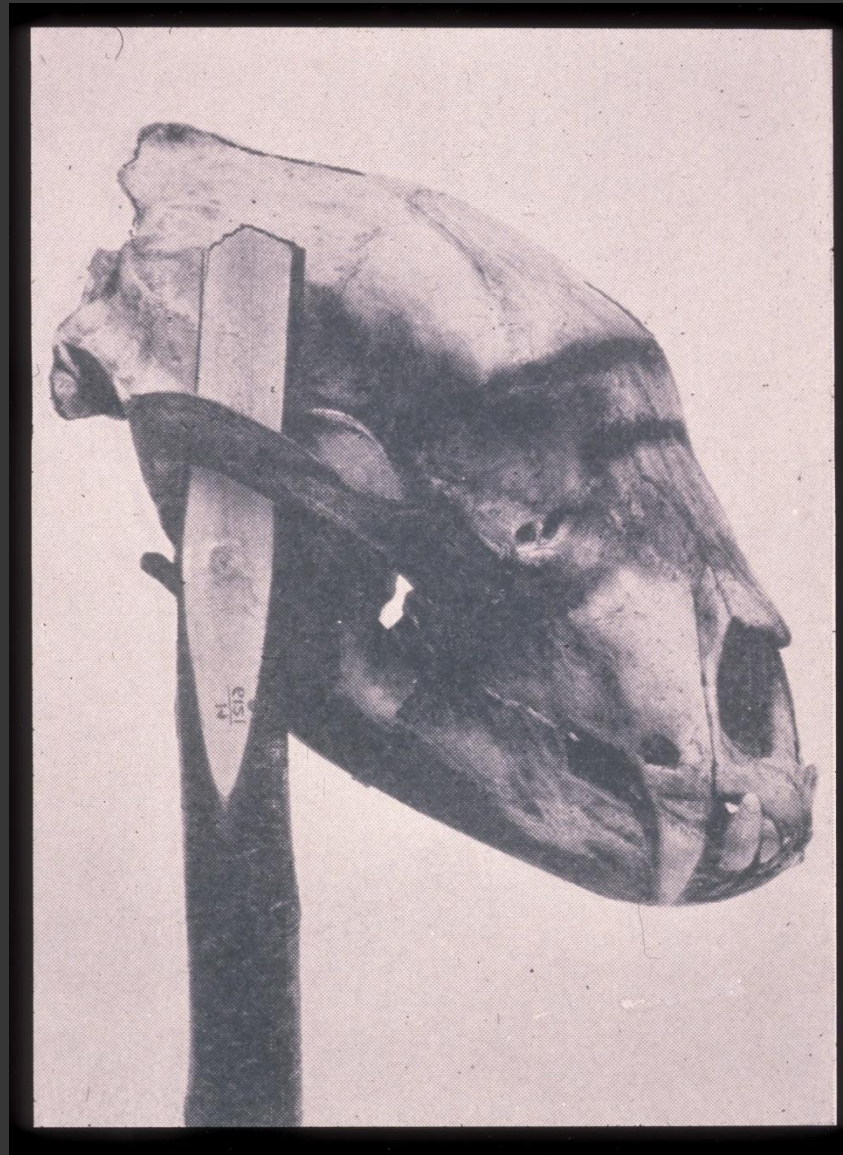




NASKAPI

THE SAVAGE HUNTERS OF THE LABRADOR PENINSULA

FRANK G. SPECK



Speck, F.G. 1935. *Naskapi, the Savage Hunters of the Labrador Peninsula*.
University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.





The Shepherd David
Elizabeth Jane Gardner
Bouguereau
ca. 1895



RELATIONAL ETHICS

ANIMAL MINDS
and
HUMAN MORALS

The Origins of the Western Debate

Richard Sorabji





PYTHAGORAS.

Pythagoras

c. 570 BC – 495 BC



PYTHAGORAS.

“Wicked as human
bloodshed to draw the
knife across the neck
of the calf”

Ovid (43 BC-17 AD)
The Teachings of Pythagoras

MEAT IS MURDER.



Epicurus
(341–270 BCE)

RULE-BASED DEONTOLOGICAL

VIRTUE ETHICS



Second Stage of Cruelty



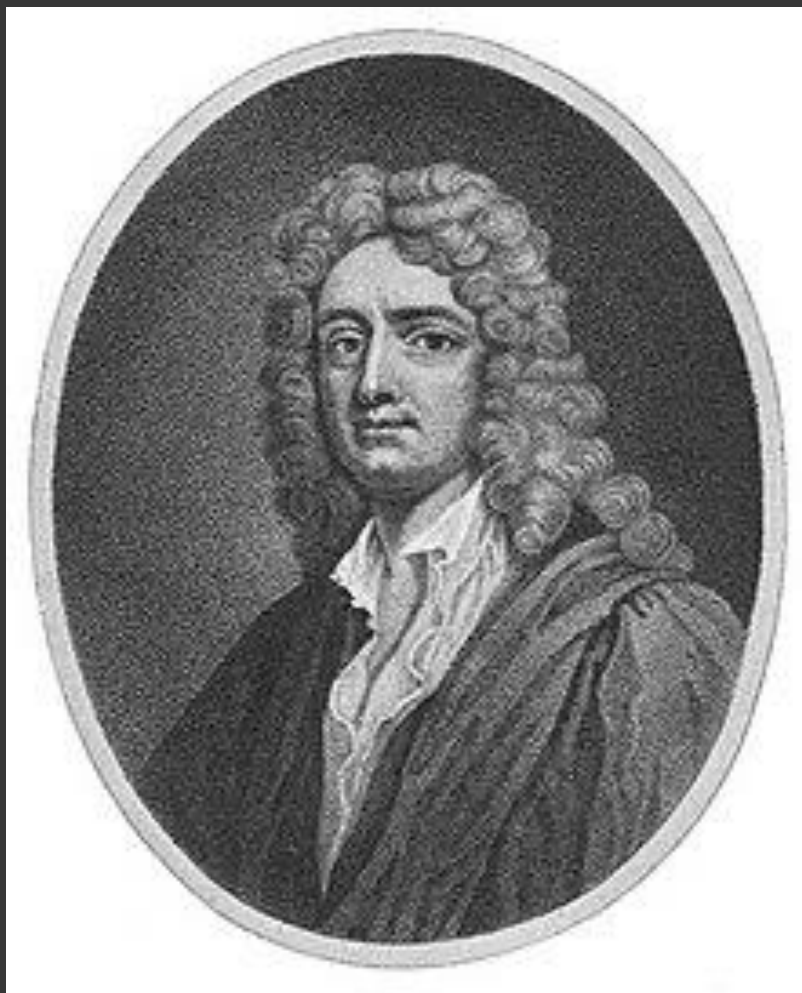
Second Stage of Cruelty (detail)



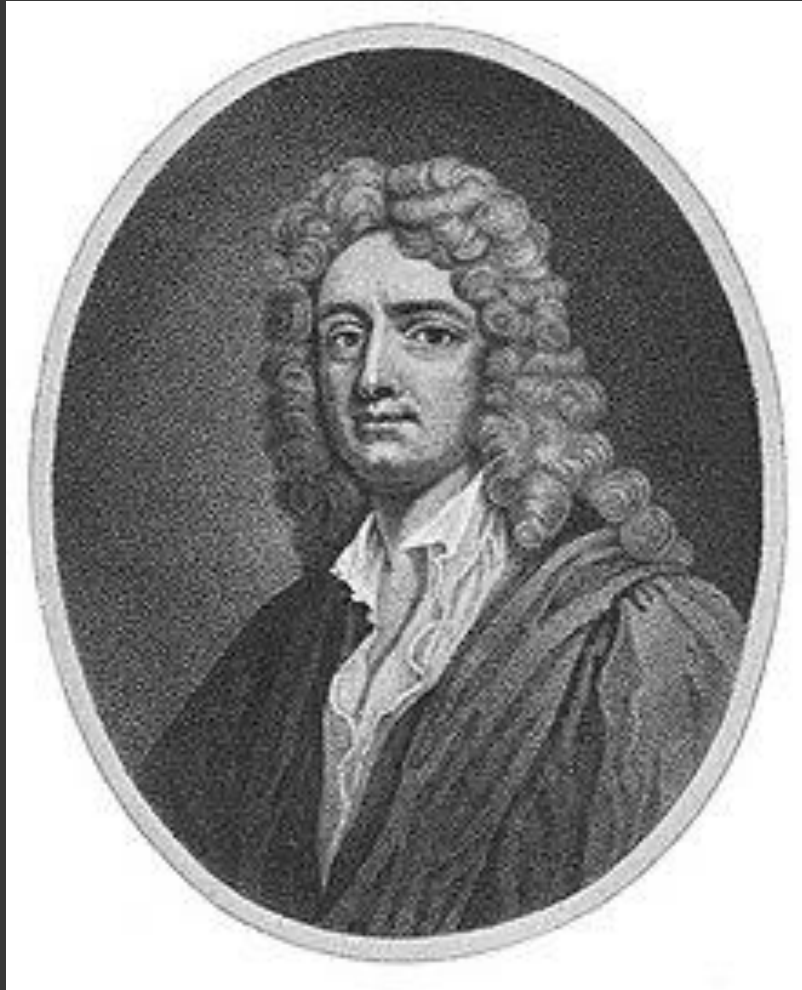
Second Stage of Cruelty (detail)



Second Stage of Cruelty



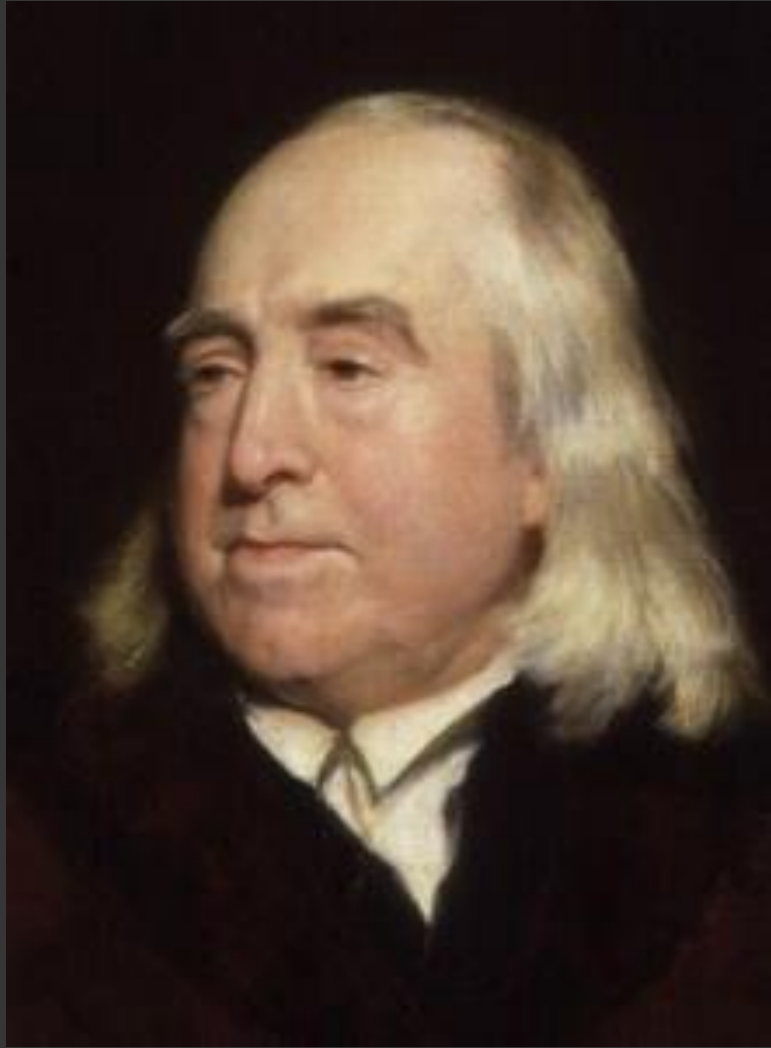
Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl
of Shaftesbury (1671-1713)



To delight in the Torture and Pain of other Creatures indifferently, Natives or Foreigners, of our own or of another Species, Kindred or no Kindred, known or unknown; ... this ... is wholly and absolutely unnatural, as it is horrid and miserable

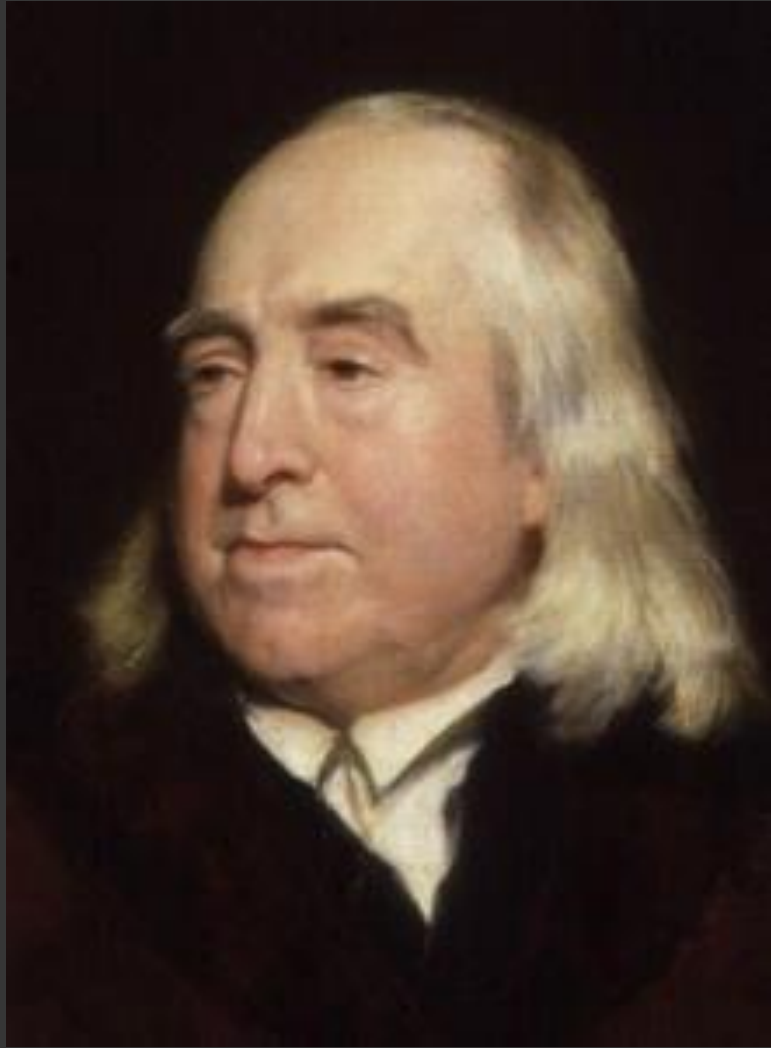
Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury (1671-1713)

VIRTUE ETHICS



Jeremy Bentham
1748-1832

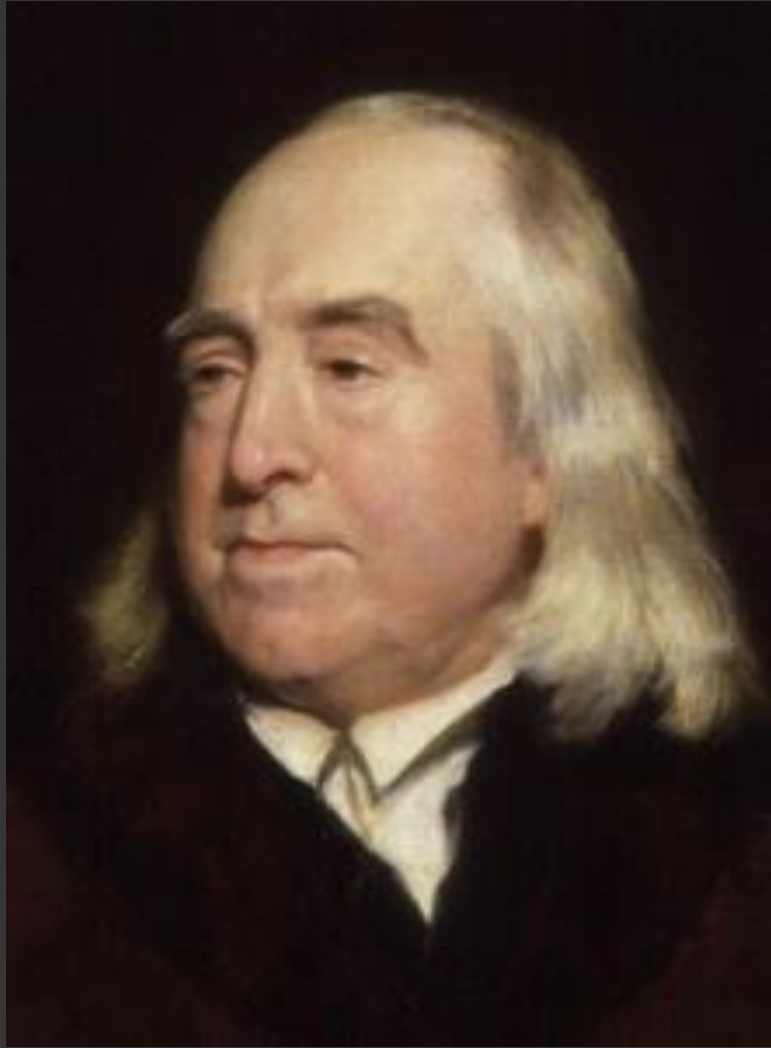
*An Introduction to the Principles of
Morals and Legislation, 1789*



Jeremy Bentham
1748-1832

“... the greatest happiness for
the greatest number”

*An Introduction to the Principles of
Morals and Legislation, 1789*

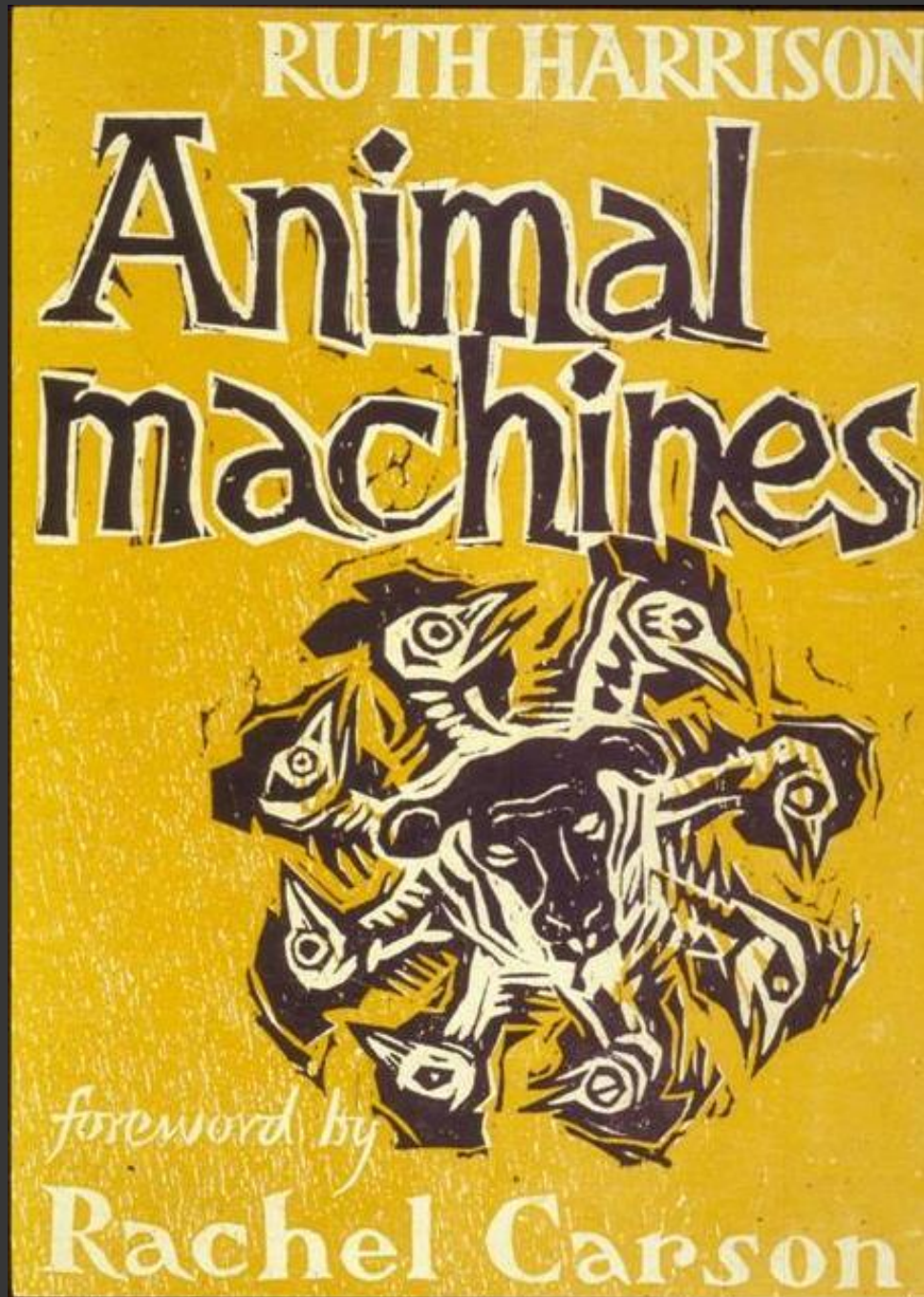


Jeremy Bentham
1748-1832

“The question is not, Can they reason?, nor Can they talk? but, Can they suffer?”

*An Introduction to the Principles of
Morals and Legislation, 1789*

CONSEQUENTIALISM



Ruth Harrison

| Type of ethic | Historic example | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Relational | Pastoralists Innu | |
| Deontological | Pythagoras | |
| Virtue-based | Shaftesbury | |
| Consequentialist | Jeremy Bentham | |

| Type of ethic | Historic example | Example of current use |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Relational | Pastoralists Innu | |
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| Type of ethic | Historic example | Example of current use |
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| Relational | Pastoralists Innu | People and pets |
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| Type of ethic | Historic example | Example of current use |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Relational | Pastoralists Innu | People and pets |
| Deontological | Pythagoras | Bans on Great Apes in research Bans on cetaceans in captivity |
| Virtue-based | Shaftesbury | |
| Consequentialist | Jeremy Bentham | |

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| Deontological | Pythagoras | Bans on Great Apes in research Bans on cetaceans in captivity |
| Virtue-based | Shaftesbury | Some animal protection work |
| Consequentialist | Jeremy Bentham | Farm animal welfare programs |



F.A. Vermer 1906. The Dry Time



Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News/Wikimedia Commons

| Conservation | Traditional animal ethics |
|---------------------|---|
| • wild animals | • captive animals or victims of intentional harms |
| | |
| | |

| Conservation | Traditional animal ethics |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• wild animals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• captive animals or victims of intentional harms |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• populations• ecological systems• species | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• treatment of individuals |
| | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• wild animals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• captive animals or victims of intentional harms |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• populations• ecological systems• species | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• treatment of individuals |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• maintain biodiversity• prevent extinction• ecological integrity | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• suffering• quality of life• freedom vs. interference |







Photo: Michigan Sea Grant

Coastal Dead Zones



Robert Diaz and Rutger Rosenberg, 2008. Spreading dead zones and consequences for marine ecosystems. *Science* 321: 926-929



Coastal Dead Zones

“Dead zones have now been reported from more than 400 systems, affecting a total area of more than 245,000 square kilometers ... [and causing]... mass mortality...”

Robert Diaz and Rutger Rosenberg, 2008. Spreading dead zones and consequences for marine ecosystems. *Science* 321: 926-929



Courtesy: Kangaroorfarmer



Loss SR, Will T, Marra PP, 2013. Nature Communications 4, Article 1396, doi:10.1038/ncomms2380

“... free-ranging domestic cats kill 1.4 - 3.7 billion birds and 6.9 - 20.7 billion mammals annually” in the USA.



Loss SR, Will T, Marra PP, 2013. Nature Communications 4, Article 1396, doi:10.1038/ncomms2380

Climate change



Photo courtesy: Kerstin Langenberger
Photography

Climate change



CD Thomas et al. 2004. Extinction risk from climate change. *Nature* 427: 145-148

Climate change



... we predict, on the basis of mid-range climate-warming scenarios for 2050, that 15–37% of species in our sample of regions and taxa will be 'committed to extinction'...

CD Thomas et al. 2004. Extinction risk from climate change. *Nature* 427: 145-148

Harming animals by disturbing the life-sustaining processes and balances of nature:

- pollution
- introduction of invasive species
- climate change





Richard Forman, Lauren Alexander, 1998. Roads and their major ecological effects. *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* 29: 207-231.



1 million vertebrates/day

Richard Forman, Lauren Alexander, 1998. Roads and their major ecological effects. *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* 29: 207-231.



Courtesy: Fatal Light Awareness Program



Daniel Klem 2009 *Proceedings Fourth International Partners in Flight Conference* (USDA, Forest Service Technical Report): 244–251

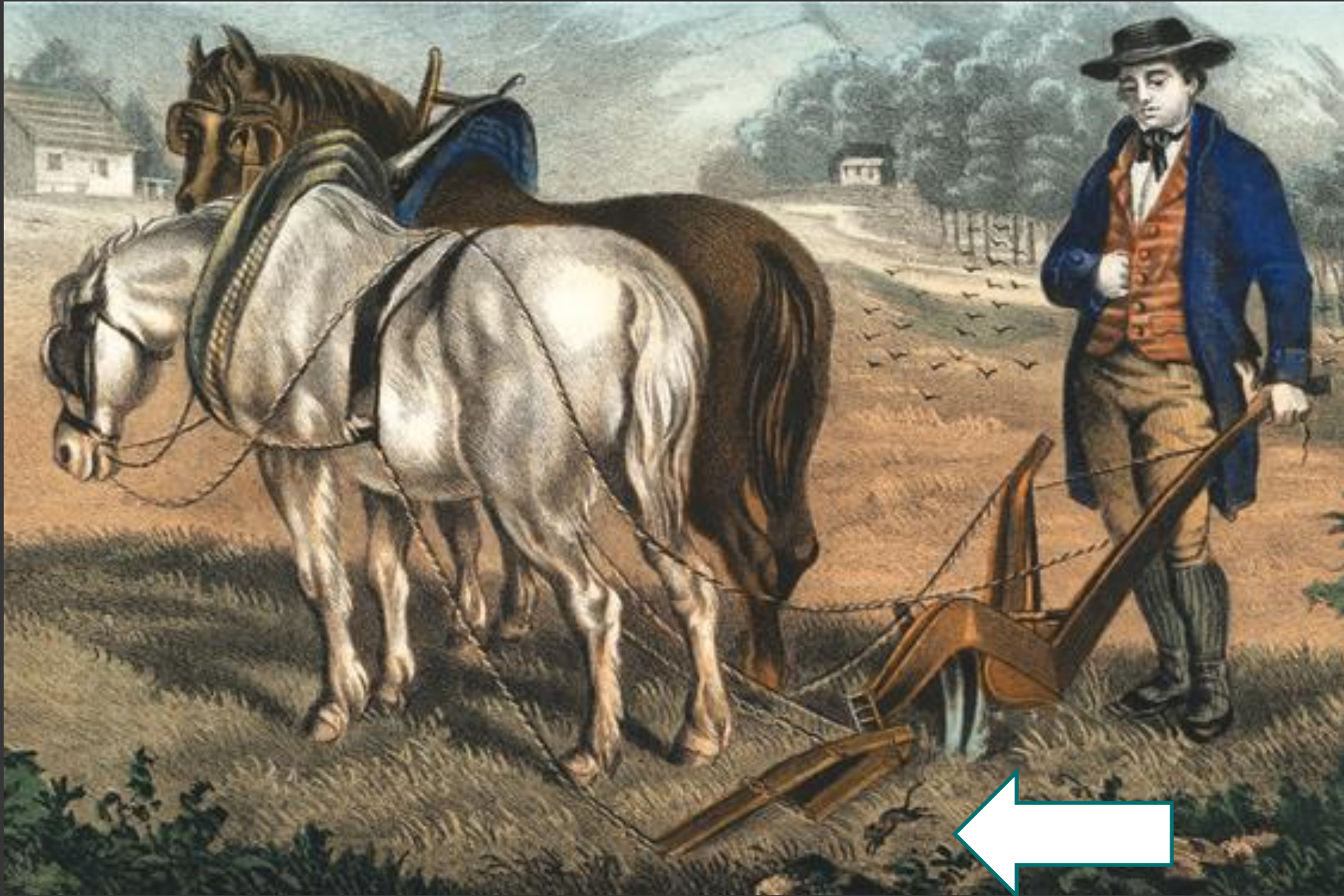


“Windows and other reflective and transparent surfaces likely kill a billion birds each year in the United States and billions worldwide.”

Daniel Klem 2009 *Proceedings Fourth International Partners in Flight Conference* (USDA, Forest Service Technical Report): 244–251



Courtesy: The Robert Burns Gallery



Courtesy: The Robert Burns Gallery



Microtus arvalis



Photo: J.-M. Benito Álvarez



J. Jacob 2003. Short-term effects of farming practices on populations of common voles. *Agric Ecosystems Environ* 95: 321–325



After plowing, common vole numbers dropped from a mean of 90/ha to about zero.

J. Jacob 2003. Short-term effects of farming practices on populations of common voles. *Agric Ecosystems Environ* 95: 321–325

Unintended harms

- vehicle collisions
- windows
- cropping operations

Unintended harms

- vehicle collisions
- windows
- cropping operations
- communication towers
- fisheries by-catch
- ghost fishing
- pesticide drift

“Practical” Ethics

COSMOPOLIS

*THE HIDDEN AGENDA
OF MODERNITY*



STEPHEN TOULMIN

“Practical” Philosophy

COSMOPOLIS

*THE HIDDEN AGENDA
OF MODERNITY*



STEPHEN TOULMIN

“Practical” Philosophy

- contextual more than theoretical

COSMOPOLIS

*THE HIDDEN AGENDA
OF MODERNITY*



STEPHEN TOULMIN

“Practical” Philosophy

- contextual more than theoretical
- timely rather than timeless

COSMOPOLIS

*THE HIDDEN AGENDA
OF MODERNITY*



STEPHEN TOULMIN

“Practical” Philosophy

- contextual more than theoretical
- timely rather than timeless
- reasonable more than rational

**Tom L. Beauchamp
James F. Childress**

**Principles
of
Biomedical
Ethics**

Second Edition

Tom L. Beauchamp
James F. Childress

**Principles
of
Biomedical
Ethics**

Second Edition

- Do good to patients (beneficence)
- Do no harm to patients (nonmaleficence)
- Treat patients fairly (justice)
- Respect patients' own wishes (autonomy)

A Practical Ethic for Animals

- contextual
- timely
- reasonable

A Practical Ethic for Animals

- to provide good lives for all animals that we take into our care

A Practical Ethic for Animals

- to provide good lives for all animals that we take into our care
- to protect the life-sustaining processes and balances of nature

A Practical Ethic for Animals

- to provide good lives for all animals that we take into our care
- to protect the life-sustaining processes and balances of nature
- to be mindful of the harms that we cause and minimize them as much as we can

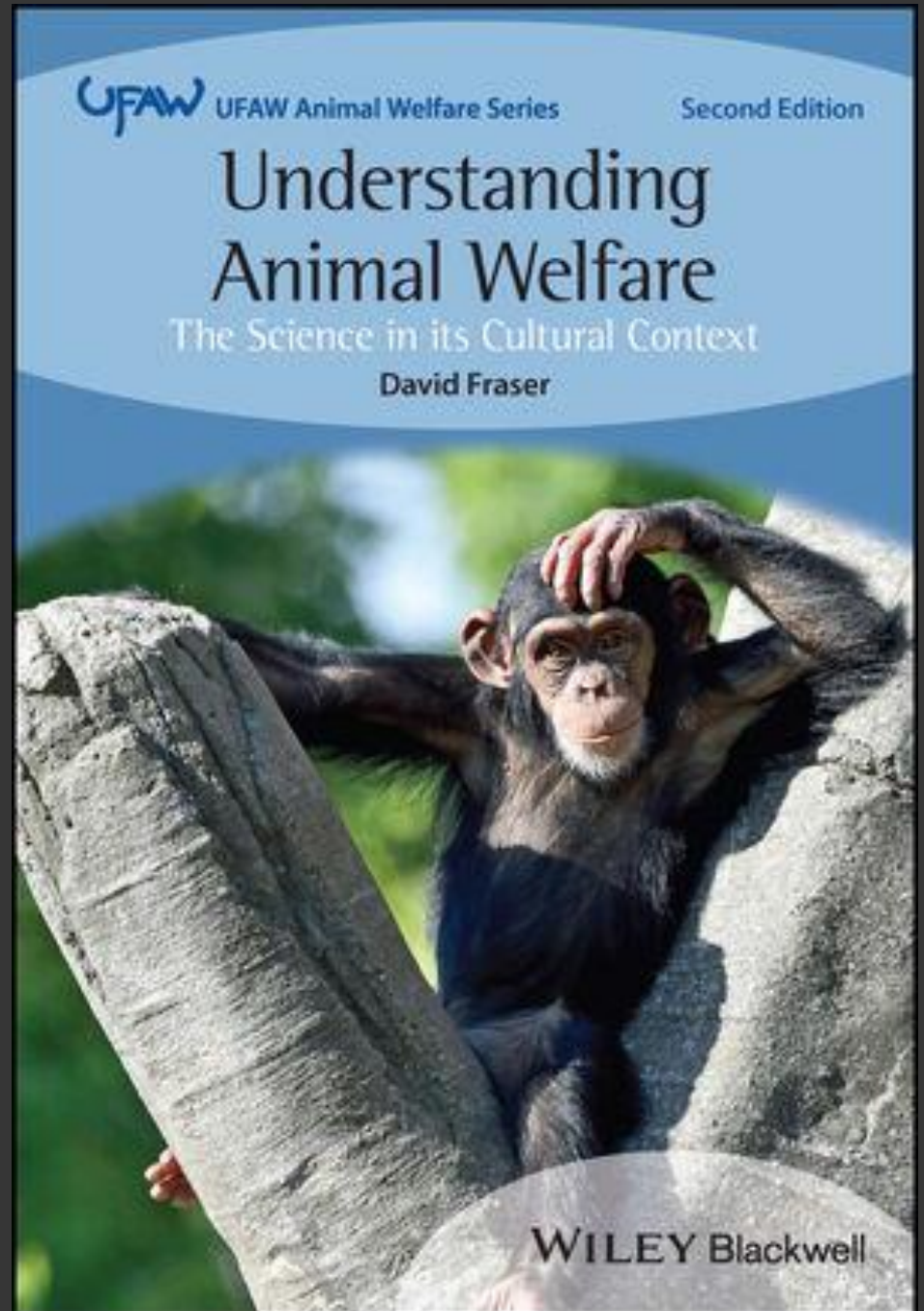
A Practical Ethic for Animals

- to provide good lives for all animals that we take into our care
- to protect the life-sustaining processes and balances of nature
- to be mindful of the harms that we cause and minimize them as much as we can
- to respect those human-animal relationships that allow people and animals to live together sustainably

A Practical Ethic for Animals

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References

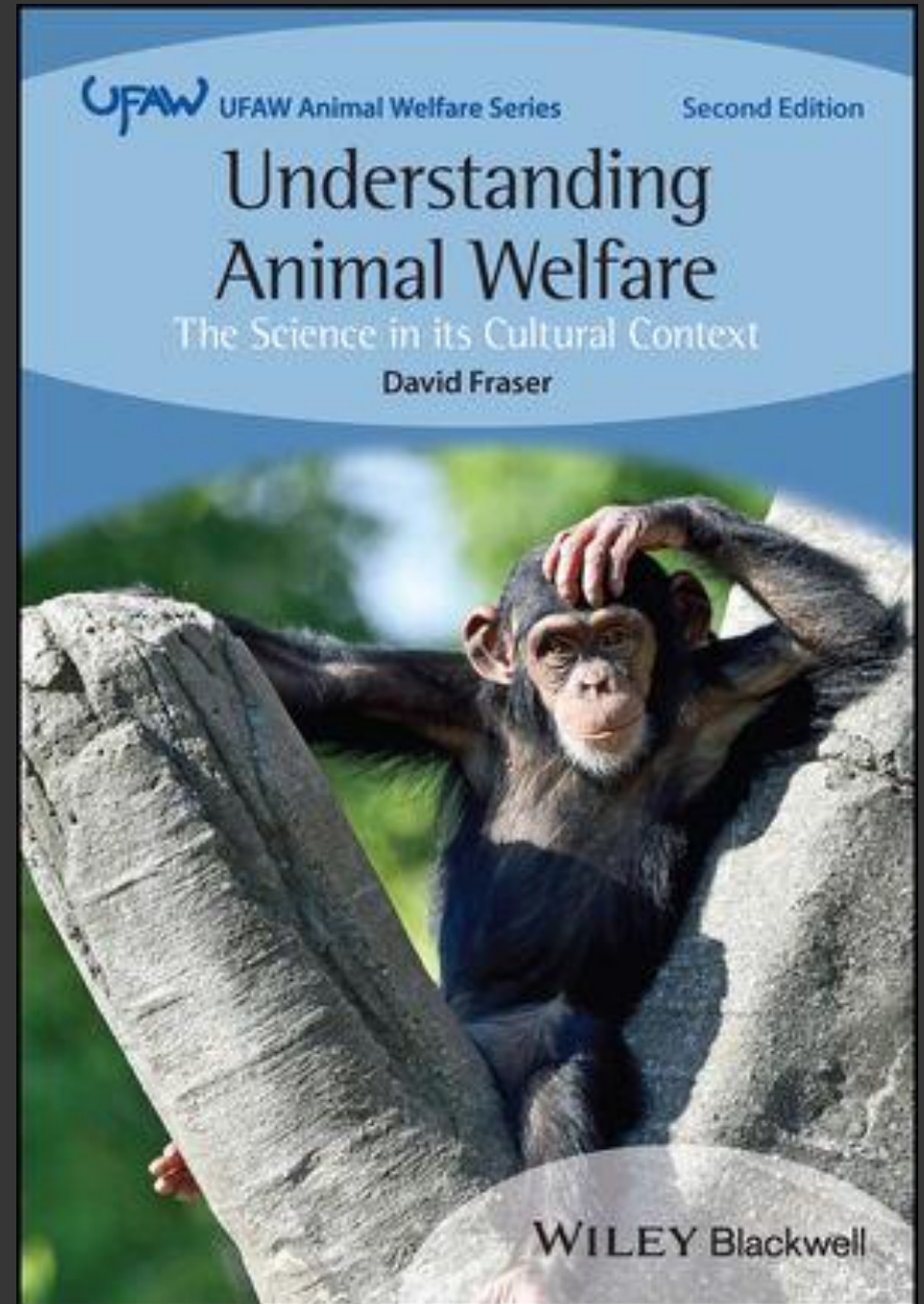


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Fraser, D. 2012. A “practical” ethic for animals. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 25: 721-746.

Fraser, D. 2018. Why we need a new ethic for animals. *Journal of Applied Animal Ethics Research* 1: 6-20.

david.fraser@ubc.ca





Yolanda van Heezik et al. 2010. *Biological Conservation*
143: 121–130



“We suggest that urban populations of birds in Dunedin may be population sinks”

Yolanda van Heezik et al. 2010. *Biological Conservation* 143: 121–130

| Conservation | Animal welfare |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• wild animals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• captive animals (domesticated) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• populations• ecological systems• species | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• individuals |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• biodiversity• extinction• ecological integrity | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• animal health• quality of life• emotional states |

| Type of ethic | Historic example | Recent example |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Relational | Pastoralists Innu | Mary Midgley |
| Deontological | Pythagoras | Tom Regan |
| Virtue-based | Shaftesbury | Traditional values |
| Consequentialist | Jeremy Bentham | Ruth Harrison, Peter Singer |

The same human activities driving the current extinction crisis are also causing suffering, fear, physical injury, psychological trauma, and disease in wild animals.

Paul Paquet & Chris Darimont, 2010
Animal Welfare 19: 177-190

“Practical” Ethics

Principles of Biomedical Ethics

- beneficence
- nonmaleficence
- justice
- autonomy

Five Freedoms

Three Rs

Ten Commandments

Noble Eightfold Path

