27TH ANNUAL ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE

PORTLAND, OREGON OCTOBER 25-27, 2019

Philosophical Perspectives on Animals

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Philosophers have been thinking about animal issues for 2,500 years!

- Pythagoras (b. ~580 BC)
 - "Pythagorean diet" = "vegetarian" until 19th century
 - Kinship of all creatures
 - Transmigration of souls
- Aristotle (384–422 BCE)
 - Natural hierarchies:

reason > passion men > women free men > slaves, people > animals





A lot of well-known philosophers have discussed the moral status of animals

- Descartes: animals are like watches
- Favorable to animals: Voltaire, Percy Shelley, Jeremy Bentham, J.S. Mill, Gandhi
- Lots of contemporary philosophers





Indirect Duties to Animals: Animals Have Instrumental Value

- Kant: We have only indirect duties to animals
 - Hurting animals is bad, but only because it harms humans
 - Being kind to animals is good, but only because it benefits humanity
- Environmental Arguments
- Health Arguments





<u>Direct</u> Duties to Animals: Animals Have Intrinsic Value







Peter Singer

- Regarded as the founder of the animal rights movement
- Animal Liberation (1975):
 - "Bible" of the animal rights movement





Peter Singer's Goal: Decrease Suffering

Tom Regan: A philosophical founder of the animal rights movement

- The Case for Animal Rights and many other books
 - Empty Cages is very accessible
- We should stop using animals as resources
- Not larger cages, but abolition
- Policy changes: eliminate exploitative practices





Ethical Theories



and and the



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