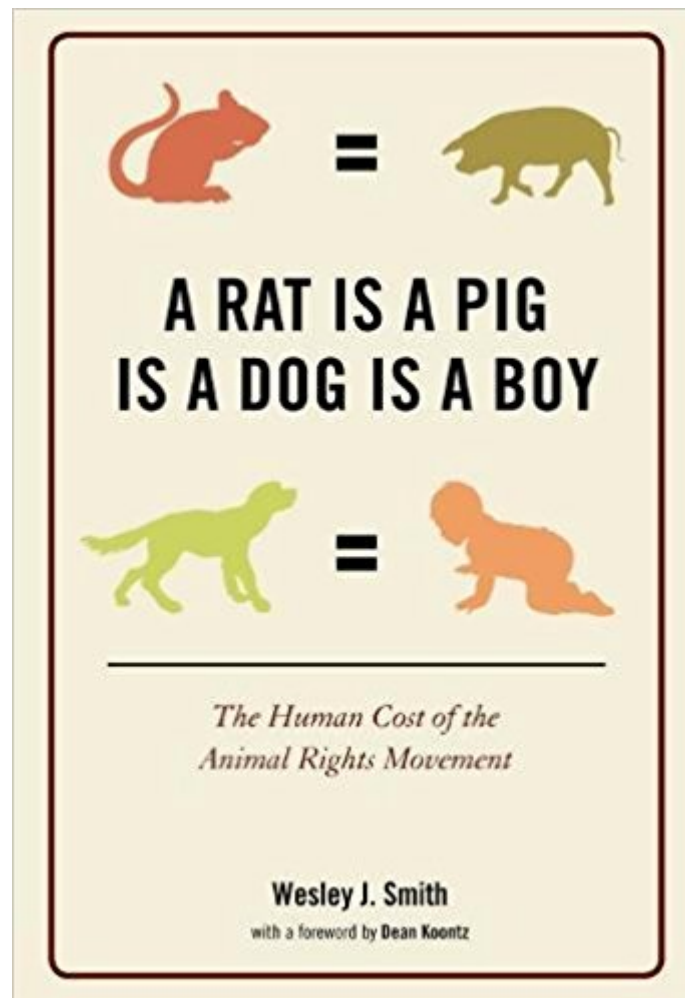




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A Rat Is A Pig Is A Dog Is A Boy: The Human Cost Of The Animal Rights Movement



Synopsis

Over the past thirty years, as Wesley J. Smith details in his latest book, the concept of animal rights has been seeping into the very bone marrow of Western culture. One reason for this development is that the term "animal rights" is so often used very loosely, to mean simply being nicer to animals. But although animal rights groups do sometimes focus their activism on promoting animal welfare, the larger movement they represent is actually advancing a radical belief system. For some activists, the animal rights ideology amounts to a quasi religion, one whose central doctrine declares a moral equivalency between the value of animal lives and the value of human lives. Animal rights ideologues embrace their beliefs with a fervor that is remarkably intense and sustained, to the point that many dedicate their entire lives to "speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves." Some believe their cause to be so righteous that it entitles them to cross the line from legitimate advocacy to vandalism and harassment, or even terrorism against medical researchers, the fur and food industries, and others they accuse of abusing animals. All people who love animals and recognize their intrinsic worth can agree with Wesley J. Smith that human beings owe animals respect, kindness, and humane care. But Smith argues eloquently that our obligation to humanity matters more, and that granting "rights" to animals would inevitably diminish human dignity. In making this case with reason and passion, *A Rat Is a Pig Is a Dog Is a Boy* strikes a major blow against a radically antihuman dogma.

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Customer Reviews

¶Like every antidemocratic ideology, this one [animal rights] is by definition antihuman, and like any antihuman ideology, it ultimately deteriorates into a nihilistic bitterness that is anti-life. . . . Wesley J. Smith knows too well that if the activists ever succeeded in their goals, if they established through culture or law that human beings have no intrinsic dignity greater than that of any animal, the world would not be a better place for either humankind or animals. • Dean Koontz

Wesley J. Smith, a Senior Fellow in Human Rights and Bioethics at the Discovery Institute, is the author of the prizewinning *Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America*, as well as *Consumer's Guide to a Brave New World* and *Forced Exit: Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, and the New Duty to Die*. He lives in Castro Valley, California, with his wife, the syndicated columnist Debra J. Saunders. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Excellent analysis of the problems related to the Animal Rights movement.

Finite research, presentation of facts. A clear deliniation between Animal Rights and humane treatment of animals. Terrorism and abuse of the human species revealed.

Excellent and informative narrative about the animal rights movement and its anti-human sociopathic agenda.

Animal cruelty is definitely wrong. But the thing that makes it so wrong is not only that it hurts an animal, but that it "makes us less human", as Wesley Smith says. Hearing the phrase "animal rights" should hurt anyone in their common sense, but strangely it doesn't. Smith concludes the same thing I did: that animals have no rights, but we have the DUTY to take care of them as much as we can -without giving THEM rights. But he also made a book about it, put a lot of research into it and explained himself much better than I do when I try to argue with vegan people...Now while I don't completely agree with the authors opinion on human nature (just a little part at the end), I still think this is a great book, and would recommend it to anyone who would like to be informed about this whole issue (because it IS an issue, unfortunately). Discussing with people who support "animal rights" will be probably easier, and everything stated in this book comes with its respective source. After reading this this, it will be easier to see why the "animal rights" idea is stupid, absurd and even worse: potentially dangerous.

I read the book in its entirety, taking note of passages interesting and/or questionable. Most folks give reviews based on their own pre-determined opinions, and perhaps I am doing the same. I consider myself a moderate, and so I am not offended by its assault on "animal rights" nor by its support of animal industries. It is important to find resources on both sides, if we are ever to have real discussions of the issues. As near as I can tell, the author correctly quotes opposing views, and the truth is, I doubt any of those quotes are contested by their speakers and writers. Ingrid Newkirk and others from similar AR organizations love to make outrageous statements to gain press. I do think the author's repeated slams on Matthew Scully's book *Dominion* are rather strained. This sort of thing, in fact, is my main complaint about this book. Aside from direct and intentional wicked torture of animals (dogfighting, Michael Vick, etc), the author finds nothing on earth wrong with any use of animals. The one ignorant reviewer who claims the author supports Vick is delusional, the author spends a whole page condemning Vick, he simply quoted some anarchist blogger who defended Vick....It is simply difficult to believe that anyone can truly believe that ALL animal uses are justified. I think this is why reviewers either love the book or hate it. So I give it 3 stars because it takes an unpopular opinion and makes some sort of case to defend animal industries. I do not think the case is terribly strong, especially since it basically finds no wrong in any animal industries. Saying we have no problem is rather counter to the rise of the whole debate we see!

If you had asked me over lunch whether I supported "animal rights" back when I was a college sophomore in Seattle, I would've said "Sure!" After all, nearly everyone recognizes that we should avoid inflicting unnecessary pain on creatures in the animal kingdom. And many of us grew up seeing and hearing celebrity and entertainment big shots lining up for animal-related causes. "Animal Rights" was the name of Moby's album I was listening to from around that time. (I didn't realize until later that Moby exhorted people to commit acts of eco-terrorism in the liner notes.) Even so, I only thought that "animal rights" referred to treating animals humanely. If you had told me back then that eating meat or medical testing conducted on animals was tantamount to murder or to a Holocaust, I would've choked my double cheeseburger right then and there. "But radical animal rights activists actually believe the "meat is murder" bumper stickers. The insufferable music singer Morrissey recently told a concert audience that the horrific Oslo mass-murder shootings was nothing worse than what takes place every day at KFC! As "A Rat is a Pig is a Dog is a Boy," crazy ideas about animal rights have consequences. Author Wesley J. Smith points out in his excellently-researched and to-the-point book that there is a world of difference between the kind of animal welfare that everyday Americans support and the radical worldview, agenda and tactics being

advanced by a movement that goes under the banner of "animal rights." Smith's book chronicles animal rights activists' attempts to destroy promising medical research and the careers of scientists who are seeking to find cures to human ailments through animal testing. He also spotlights how animal rights activists have sought to propagandize young children through cartoons and the like--the idea being to anthropomorphize animals and get young children to equate sub-human animals with human beings. As Smith's book explains, you can support animal welfare while rejecting radical "animal rights" ideology. Smith is a champion of human exceptionalism. This book shows how the animal rights movement is seeking to undermine human dignity and uniqueness. Not to be forgotten, the book comes with what you might call a power forward by author Dean Koontz. I'm delighted that this book is now available in paperback and hope that it will now find its way into even more hands. Parents with young children, in particular, should pay attention to this book: you need to make sure your animal-loving children are inoculated when they start encountering things like cutesy cartoons about "sea kittens" (i.e., fish).

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