

Animals versus the Environment?

Ethics: The Environment

Summer 2012, Laura Guidry-Grimes



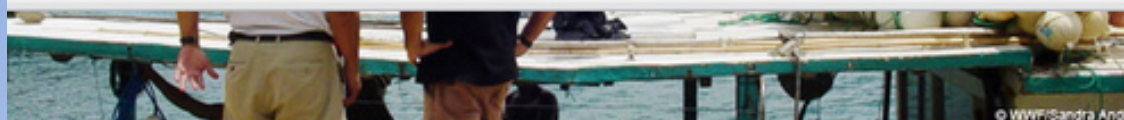


The Issue

Can environmentalists and animal advocates agree on what has intrinsic value?

Can they share a philosophical approach to the environment?

Can they agree on how to resolve ethical dilemmas?



Who We Are : About WWF

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Who We Are

ABOUT WWF

For 50 years, WWF has been protecting the future of nature. The world's leading conservation organization, WWF works in 100 countries and is supported by 1.2 million members in the United States and close to 5 million globally. WWF's unique way of working combines global reach with a foundation in science, involves action at every level from local to global, and ensures the delivery of innovative solutions that meet the needs of both people and nature.

Vision

WWF's vision is to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature.

Mission

WWF's mission is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth.

Goal and Strategies

By 2020, WWF will conserve 15 of the world's most ecologically important regions by working in partnership with others to:

- Protect and restore species and their habitats
- Strengthen local communities' ability to conserve the natural resources they depend upon
- Transform markets and policies to reduce the impact of the production and consumption of commodities
- Ensure that the value of nature is reflected in decisions made by individuals, communities, governments and businesses
- Mobilize hundreds of millions of people to support conservation



WWF's network gives the organization global reach.
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Wilderness belongs to you

Guess who owns 635 million acres of American wildlands? **You.**

You own red-rock canyons and turquoise rivers. Desert plains and jagged mountain peaks. You own Arctic tundra, southern wildflower fields and cool northern forests. All these iconic **wild places** are part of your "great American backyard."

Not all federal wildlands are "wilderness." Wilderness is a type of protection given to the most pristine **wildlands** — areas within national parks, forests, recreation areas and other wildlands where there are no roads or development. This officially **designated wilderness** is the last remnant of the wild landscapes that once stretched from coast to coast.

Today, only about 110 million acres of true wilderness remain as part of the 635 million acres of federal wildlands. At The Wilderness Society, we're working to preserve these **wild places** and to designate new areas that qualify for wilderness protection.

It's a place to enjoy

Wilderness is a haven from the pressures of our fast-paced society. It provides us with places where we can seek relief from the noise, haste and crowds that too often confine us. It is a place for us to enjoy with friends and families — strengthening our relationships and building lasting memories.

For adventurers, it offers endless opportunities for **outdoor recreation**. In wilderness, we can walk and hike, watch wildlife, camp, fish and many other activities. This kind of recreation in the wild has countless proven benefits to our health and wellbeing.

Yet, each year as we grow more and more connected through technology, we grow less and less connected with wilderness.

It's a home for wildlife

Wilderness is a vital habitat for wildlife. In addition to providing wildlife with a home, wilderness also provides migration routes and breeding grounds for many kinds of animal species. When wilderness is fragmented and developed, these animals are threatened.

In the web-of-life, wilderness helps to preserve a wide variety of natural life forms and contributes to more diverse plant and animal gene pools. More than half of the ecosystems in the United States exist within designated wilderness.

Without designated wilderness, it would be virtually impossible to ensure the protection of species.

It's an economic engine and a way of life

For many people who live near wilderness, it contributes to their local economy and way of life.

Wild places are a great source of economic activity, especially in the rural communities that surround them. Outdoor recreation contributes more than \$646 billion annually to the economy, supports 6.1 million jobs and generates nearly \$80 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

In **wild places** like Alaska, native populations also rely on wilderness and the wildlife within it for subsistence.

When our society threatens wilderness, we threaten local people's livelihood and cultural traditions.

It cleans our air and water

Wilderness areas protect watersheds that provide drinking water to many cities and rural communities. It helps improve the quality of our air. When wilderness is threatened, so is its ability to improve these essential elements.

Few of us live close to a designated wilderness area, yet many of us are connected to them every day. Each time we breathe air or drink water, we benefit from our **wild places**.

It's a source of clean, renewable energy

Rich renewable energy resources found on our federal wildlands — like wind energy and solar energy — play a key role in powering our future. These clean energy sources help stop global warming and provide alternatives to fossil fuels.

But in developing renewable energy on federal wildlands, we shouldn't sacrifice sensitive wildlands and wildlife habitat. By choosing the right places and methods for developing clean energy, we can ensure our environment and local economies stay healthy.

It's a natural laboratory

Wilderness provides us with a place to study and learn more about our natural world. Without designated wilderness, we would know very little about issues affecting the health and vibrancy of our wildlands, our wildlife and ourselves.

Wilderness also is a place where we can study the impacts of human-caused issues, such as climate change. Our vast unspoiled stretches of national forests can act as a buffer against climate change, slowing warming trends by absorbing harmful greenhouse gases. But climate change also has real, observable effects — threats like catastrophic wildfire, invasive species and an increased risk of disease.

When we have access to wilderness, where we can study these effects, we are better equipped to address and prevent them.

It's an American legacy

Since the Wilderness Act passed in 1964, Congress has designated nearly 110 million acres of federal wildlands as official wilderness. Official wilderness has the highest form of protection of any federal wildland.

Today, about 235 million acres of federal wildlands have been permanently protected as wilderness, parks, refuges or other protected areas. But that's only a third of our public lands. And about 100 million acres of pristine wildlands are still at risk. These wildlands could qualify for future protection, but the window of opportunity is closing fast.

At Wilderness, we're working to protect these 100 million pristine federal wildlands within the next 20 years, before development fragments what remains. If we don't protect these last remaining **wild places** now, they could be lost forever.

About the ASPCA

Who We Are

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was the first humane society to be established in North America and is, today, one of the largest in the world. Our organization was founded by Henry Bergh in 1866 on the belief that animals are entitled to kind and respectful treatment at the hands of humans, and must be protected under the law. Headquartered in New York City, the ASPCA maintains a strong local presence, and with programs that extend our anti-cruelty mission across the country, we are recognized as a national animal welfare organization. We are a privately funded 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, and proud to boast more than 1 million supporters across the country.



What We Do

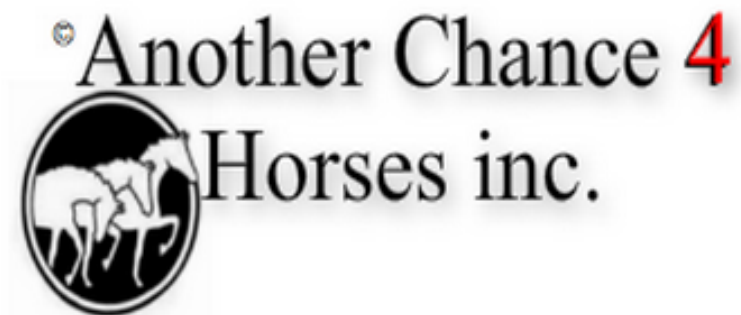
As the first humane organization to be granted legal authority to investigate and make arrests for crimes against animals, we are wholly dedicated to fulfilling the ASPCA mission through nonviolent approaches. Our organization provides local and national leadership in three key areas: caring for pet parents and pets, providing positive outcomes for at-risk animals and serving victims of animal cruelty. For more on our work in each of these areas, please visit our [programs and services](#) page.

History

Incorporated in 1866 by a special act of the New York State legislature, the ASPCA has a history rich in challenges and victories—from providing care and protection for the city's working horses and transforming dog pounds into professionally run adoptions facilities to founding an animal hospital that is still running today. [Read more about our history.](#)

Mission

The ASPCA's mission, as stated by Henry Bergh in 1866, is "to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States."



Another Chance 4 Horses, Inc. a 501c(3) Non Profit Charity registered with the State of PA Certificate #32200/Federal 501c(3) DLN# 17053089729078. Rescue, Rehabilitation and Placement headquartered in Pennsylvania with an international network. We have been in continuous operation for over a decade with the first five years being out of our pocket. We are a volunteer based, all breed horse rescue. Our Mission is to give equines a much needed "Another Chance". We do all aspects of rescue - abuse, neglect, owner surrender, cruelty, auction purchase and slaughter for human consumption then quarantine, rehabilitate, evaluate, train and place horses in loving homes. We are also very active in education and community involvement.



Rights: Some Basics

❖ *Correlativity thesis:*

$R \rightarrow O$, but

$O \nrightarrow R$

❖ *Positive rights: obligation to provide*

❖ *Negative rights: obligation not to interfere*

❖ *Distinction breaks down in many cases...*

Environmental principles and animal liberation: Compatible?



or



or



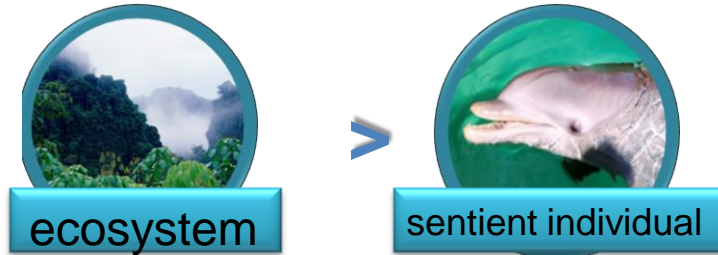
Ecocentrism?

Species-centered?

*Biocentric
individualism?*

Compatibility Problems

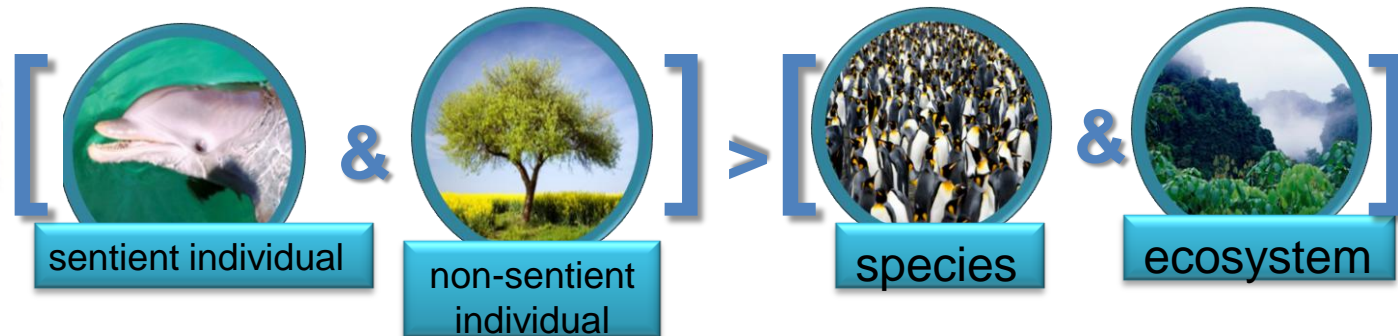
❖ *Ecocentrism:*



❖ *Species-centered:*



❖ *Biocentric individualism:*



Compatibility Problems

❖ How should we resolve ethical dilemmas?

- *Animal rights/welfare: prioritize preventing and relieving harm to individual animals (that can be harmed)*
 - *Basic rights entail negative and positive obligations*
- *Environmentalism:*
 - *Ecocentrism: prioritize protecting ecosystems*
 - *Species-centered: prioritize protecting biodiversity and species*
 - *Biocentric individualism: prioritize all natural (?) individuals*

❖ Irresolvable differences re: **what has intrinsic value**

Katz's Proposal for an Environmental Ethic

❖ *Primary principle/goal:*

- *Protect ecosystems*

❖ *Secondary principle/goal:*

- *Protect individual members of biotic community*
- *In effect only when ecosystem adequately protected*

➤ *Should this satisfy animal advocates?*

➤ *Are endangered species adequately protected on this account?*



Varner's Reconciliation

➤ *Convergence among anthropocentrists, environmentalists, and animal advocates possible at the level of policy?*

❖ *Animal welfare/liberation (Singer)*

- *Hedonist or preference calculus (depends on whether animal is self-conscious and capable of long-ranging projects)*
- *Empirical question: Will letting nature take its course cause more suffering?*

❖ *Animal rights (Regan)*

- *Worse-off principle + miniride principle*
- *Empirical question: Will letting nature take its course result in more rights being violated?*



Test Case: Hunting



❖ *Types of hunting*

- *Therapeutic*
- *Subsistence*
- *Sport*

❖ *Types of species management*

- *Obligatory*
- *Permissive*

❖ *Hunting levels*

- *Max number supportable*
- *Max sustainable yield*
- *Trophy*



Fewer die and suffer

❖ *Further morally relevant distinctions?*

Potential Sources of Agreement

- ❖ *Biologically necessary, therapeutic, obligatory management hunting*
 - *Necessary to protect ecosystem and species from overpopulation*
 - *Necessary to protect animals from death and suffering due to overpopulation*

- ❖ *Maybe permissive management hunting*
 - *If animal is not self-conscious and will have a better death as a result of hunting*

- ❖ *Should explore more efficient and effective (and humane) options*



Lingering Problems...

- ❖ *Do these views lead to ecofascism?*
- ❖ *Will Varner's reconciliation work in all cases?*
- ❖ *How problematic is the philosophical disagreement about intrinsic value?*
- ❖ *Does Katz or Varner offer the better solution?*

Questions? Comments?

