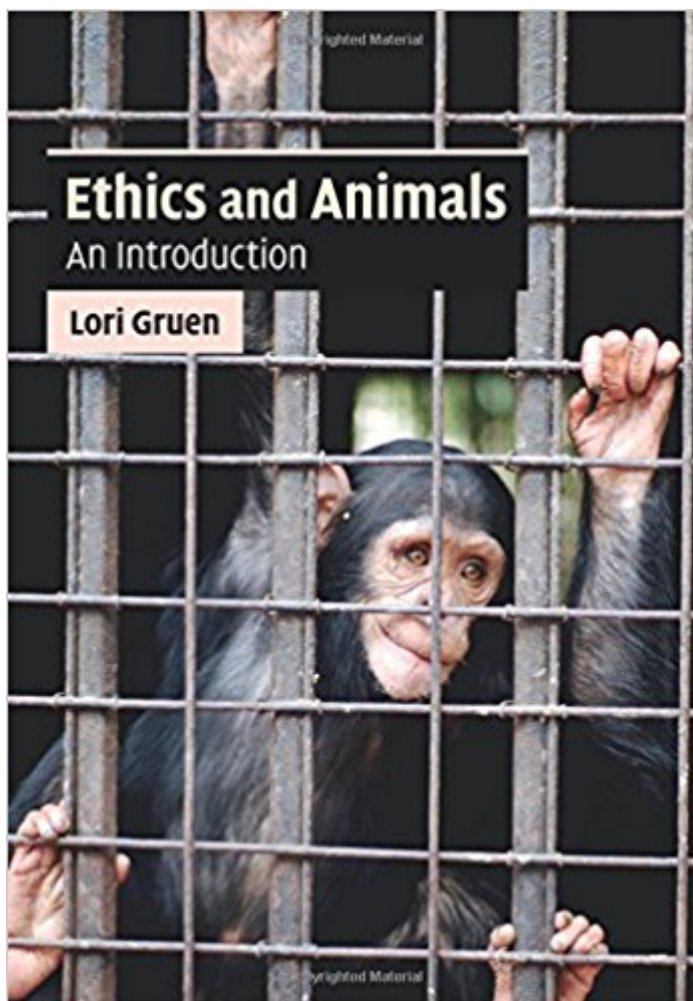


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# Ethics And Animals: An Introduction (Cambridge Applied Ethics)



## Synopsis

In this fresh and comprehensive introduction to animal ethics, Lori Gruen weaves together poignant and provocative case studies with discussions of ethical theory, urging readers to engage critically and empathetically reflect on our treatment of other animals. In clear and accessible language, Gruen provides a survey of the issues central to human-animal relations and a reasoned new perspective on current key debates in the field. She analyses and explains a range of theoretical positions and poses challenging questions that directly encourage readers to hone their ethical reasoning skills and to develop a defensible position about their own practices. Her book will be an invaluable resource for students in a wide range of disciplines including ethics, environmental studies, veterinary science, women's studies, and the emerging field of animal studies and is an engaging account of the subject for general readers with no prior background in philosophy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ethics and Animals is probably the best available introduction to the ethics of humans' treatment of and interaction with animals ...Essential Reading-- W. Ouder Kirk for CHOICE  
Lori Gruen's new book, Ethics and Animals: An Introduction, is one of those few books that deserve the plaudits it has been getting and will continue to get...this is a beautifully written and marvelously accessible book for undergraduate students and for those scholars who are introducing themselves to or updating themselves about animal studies.-- Greg Goodale, PhD., Northeastern University from Women's

Studies: *Å* *Å* An Interdisciplinary Journal  
The richness of Gruen's ethical toolkit and her sustained treatment of animal difference offer a new approach ... rather than beginning with atrocities or abstract commitment to a particular method, Gruen launches the book with a sense of wonder around other animals...this book contains many openings for future students of the discipline to transform ethics into something more bright and beautiful than what we have today...and gives readers lots of ways to imagine a much better world for all animals, including ourselves.-- Kathy Rudy, PhD, Duke University from *Ethics and the Environment*. "...Ethics introduces readers to the many ways humans use animals, and to the schools of ethical thought that we can use to evaluate the morality of this use.... offer thought-provoking guidelines.... Gruen makes ethical arguments matter, even in situations that seem morally clear." --Piper Hoffman, writer and attorney, *Our Hen House*"*Ethics and Animals: An Introduction* is a fine introduction to a set of issues concerning the variety of ways that humans interact with, treat, and sometimes exploit non-human animals. While Gruen brings the resources of both empirical science and normative ethical theory to bear on the issues, her book is clearly written, non-technical, and suitable for a general audience, including students from a variety of disciplines, and the reference list provides excellent resources for further reading..." --Justin Moss, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Avila University, Kansas City, MO, *Metapsychology Online Reviews*"...*Ethics and Animals* is concise, clearly argued, and highly readable. It is more enjoyable and accessible than standard strictly academic prose.... Gruen, with deep intellectual honesty, manages to give a good presentation of the status quaestionis, updating readers on the focus of the debate. If the author aimed to show that the way in which humans treat animals in the contemporary world is mostly immoral, the objective was achieved." --Carlos Naconecy, Oxford Centre, *Journal of Animal Ethics*

How do other animals experience their environments? What might they be thinking? Lori Gruen weaves together case studies with accessible ethical analysis to help us to reflect critically on our obligations to other animals. Her book offers a comprehensive resource for students and an engaging account for general readers.

Lori Gruen grips you at each chapter with a concrete, vivid, and difficult situation relevant to the chapter topic, she uses cutting-edge behavioral and cognitive research along with relevant and timely ecological and economic scientific data. Her overall ecofeminist orientation appears consistently and subtly, along with evenhanded and engaged discussions of ethical theories. All of this delivered in a calm, conversational style that invites thoughtful assessment of even the most

controversial and horrific examples of human cruelty to nonhumans. I teach an animal ethics course. I read this book before making it required reading for the class, and on my second reading I'm even more satisfied with it.

Although this was intended as a textbook I read it for pleasure and enjoyed it. The author pulls arguments from a many different philosophers and uses plenty of modern examples.

Lori Gruen is a fantastic philosopher, whose ability to put profound thoughts into simple language is unmatched in philosophy today. This book is a unique creation and one well worthy of anyone's time who is at all interested in animals generally or in philosophy at all. Professor Gruen's passion for what she does shines through in this book.

A very thought provoking read. This book is filled with many interesting examples, which really expanded my perspective on the subject of how we treat animals. It's amazing to me that society does not consider this a more important issue.

The argument for person-hood for animals. Well written and thought out. Exposes the horrors endured by animals in circuses, zoos, research labs.

I was looking for an animal ethics reader for an Animal Rights and Ecofeminism course I teach, but I wanted one that at least leaned toward an animal liberation view. This was the perfect choice. Very clear. Well-written. Very happy with it.

With the publication of "Ethics and Animals: An Introduction", Lori Gruen sets a new standard on introductory texts on animal ethics. As a professional philosopher who works on and teaches animal ethics, I have waited years for a book like this. "Ethics and Animals" breaks new ground and offers fresh ideas in a discussion that has, in many ways, become somewhat stagnant. This comprehensive, opinionated introduction fills a much-needed lacuna in the literature, providing a model of clarity and balance that the subject requires. Each chapter opens with a compelling account (some poignant, others utterly gripping (I will never forget the images of Val Plumwood's near-fatal encounter with a crocodile!)) that describes the experiences of a particular animal (human or other), and that acts to establish the theme of the chapter. In chapter 5, 'Dilemmas of Captivity' (one of the many highlights of the book), Gruen breaks new ground as she develops what is a

nuanced and original view regarding one of the most fraught topics in the animal ethics literature. Gruen manages to engage the reader with beautiful prose, clear and convincing argumentation, and a sense of fairness and objectivity not often encountered in books on animal ethics. It is rare to find a scholar of such prominence in her field who is able to articulate what are often quite recondite concepts and arguments with such style, clarity, and simplicity, without forgoing the kind of intellectual rigor that this subject demands. I highly recommend this book.

Gruen has a gift for making nuanced ethical arguments easily accessible. As an animal advocate, I found this book extremely helpful as a guide to frame and extend my more intuitive approach to thinking about animals, animal rights and my personal engagement with animals. The vivid illustrative scenes that situate the reader in each chapter really ground the philosophical discussion, never allowing it to veer off into intellectual abstraction. It is not a difficult book to read. In fact, I found it very engaging. It can be demanding, though, only in that it really challenges you to consider your ethical stance towards animals in a variety of situations that are not always comfortable to consider. I highly recommend this book to anyone seeking an intelligent, comprehensive and eminently readable introduction to ethics and animals.

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