

Animal Rights vs. Animal Welfare

We have a responsibility to provide quality care to all animals in our care. While humans have an ethical responsibility to provide that care and protection, it is not a legal right. "Animal rights" - as used by activists in today's animal rights movement - has an entirely different meaning. PETA, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), Animal Protection Institute, Animal Liberation Front and similar groups support "animal rights" which means abolishing people's ownership and use of all animals. These groups want the general public to believe that they are not against pet ownership, pet breeding, hunting, and raising livestock but only against the worst forms of cruelty. One of the most challenging tasks that animal owners and producers face is to unmask the true animal rights agenda.

Animal Welfare:

- Promotes humane treatment of animals
- Believes that humans have a responsibility to care for animals and insure their well-being
- Supports education to improve the well-being of animals, both domestic and wild
- Supports the human-animal bond; acknowledges the benefit to people from interacting with animals
- Supports good husbandry practices
- Supports animal agriculture and sound science for animal production
- Supports managing animal populations by hunting
- Supports keeping animals in zoos for public education and species conservation, enjoying animal sports, animal shows and fairs; supports animals in movies, circuses, and on stage
- Supports responsible pet breeding and ownership
- Supports use of animals in research under appropriate guidelines for advancement of technology and medicine
- Supports training and use of service animals to assist people with disabilities

Animal Rights:

- Based on an ideology that no species, including humans, is better or more important than another
- Believes animal ownership is a form of slavery
- Believes humans have no right to use animals for food, clothing, research, or for entertainment (including zoos, aquariums, rodeos, circuses, and pets)
- Believes animal research is not justified regardless of medical breakthroughs
- Believes animals should lead their own lives without human interference
- Believes the life of a human and life of an animal are of equal value
- Opposes any purposeful breeding of domestic animals and pets
- Opposes hunting and fishing
- Believes current legal definition of animals as property should be ended or changed so that people are merely "guardians" of pets and livestock and government would control how they are cared for in the possession of people
- Believes animals should have legal status of their own
- Believes animals should have the right to be represented by attorneys and sue humans for supposedly enslaving or mistreating them

Protect Your Rights to Own & Enjoy Animals

Sportsmen's & Animal Owners' Voting Alliance