

DO ANIMALS HAVE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AT ALL?

Did you know that this is Biblical, Islamical, Scientifical and Ethical?

Oh yes it is, just look at this:

Biblically it can be proved that animals have the right not to be mistreated or killed without Cause. Just to mention a few out of the many, K. B Napier of Bible Theology Ministries once said, “Scripture does not support the abuse of lower species, for example, scriptures says, “oxen that tread corn are entitled to eat some of it in return”. The book of proverbs 12:10 say’s, “A righteous man regardeths the life of his animal (beast); but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel”. Few realize as they should the sinfulness of abusing animals or leaving them to suffer neglect. The question is: are you part of this few or not? Think about it. In the book of Numbers 22: 33, we hear of an angel saying, that for the act of Prophet Balaams Ass (animal), he would have killed him and saved the ass’s life. Surprised!!!!!!? read more on this in the book of numbers 22.

Islamically, it can be equally proved that animals have the right not to be mistreated. An article once by Reza Gharebaghi said, “ According to Islamic principles, humanity is not allowed to do everything to living things and must only take their lives if necessary. Animals represent Allah’s might and wisdom and humanity must pay attention to their health and living conditions”.

The Quran and Hadith raises quite a number of issues when it comes to how animals should be manipulated. Just to mention a few. The holy prophet of Islam, “Muhammad” (PBUH) said that there is no beast of burden that does not pray to God every morning so that the Lord will bestow it an owner who would give it enough forage and water and would not overload it. Ali Ibn Abu T” (PBUH) once said, “Be obedient to Allah regarding his Subjects and the lands at your disposal, for you are responsible even for the survival of animals”.

Scientifically it has been proved that Animals are sentient and deserve to be treated with respect. They need not be subjected to unnecessary pain.

The major cause of environmental degradation, including the greenhouse effects, water pollution, the yearly bush fires problem in the northern sector of Ghana, loss of both arable

land and top soil, for example, can all be traced to the exploitation of animals. In all these cases, to act to protect the affected animal (who first suffer) is to act to protect the earth first.

Ethically it has been proved that animals have the right not to be mistreated. In an article taken from the internet on Friday, 1st August, 2008 at about 1:44pm, the article had it that, “Justice is the highest principle of ethics. **We are not to commit or permit injustice so that good may come, not to violate the rights of few so that many might benefit.** Slavery, Child labour, Racism and Sexism just to mention a few sometime ago when it was accepted as good allowed this, but time proved this wrong and now, it’s currently the turn of animal Rights”.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “**The greatness of a nation and it’s moral progress can be measured by the way it’s animals are treated**”.

For those of us, who have always treated our animals well, let continue our good ways for our country to always be adjudged by people like Mahatma Gandhi as the Greatest of nations. For those of us who have only sometimes treated animals well, let’s make it a point to always treat them well

all times to give our nation the great name it deserves from
People like Mahatma Gandhi

Below are five freedoms of Animals that you could adopt:

- 1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- 2. Freedom from Discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- 3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- 4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- 5. Freedom from Fear and Distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.