

Animal Rights  
Independent Study Unit

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## Preface

The purpose of this report is to educate the reader about the global issue of animal rights. The lack of animal rights in countries such as Brazil, China, South Africa, Canada and the United States causes problems such as animal trafficking, poaching and experimentation. Many people believe animals do not deserve to have rights, which causes many animal rights activist groups to be created, such as PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals).

Animal rights can be simply defined as “the rights of animals, claimed on ethical grounds, to the same humane treatment and protection from exploitation and abuse that are accorded to humans” (“Animal Rights”). Animal rights can also relate to animal liberation and animal welfare, so both of these issues will be touched upon in this report (Regan 1). Animals not only deserve equal treatment, they deserve equal consideration. There is supposed to be equality in humanity no matter the race, religion or sex of the person. If this is true, why do racism, genocide and sexism occur? It is because of the belief of inequality. For this same reason, ‘speciesism’ occurs. Speciesism is the “prejudice or attitude of bias in favor of the interests of members of one's own species and against those of members of other species” (Animal Liberation). This is the issue that applies to animals. If humans reject the idea of equality in humans and animals, then speciesism occurs.

As humans, we should care about all species in the world. The cruel and injustice acts of animal experimentation, poaching and trafficking should not be occurring in our world today. For example, in the UK every drug that is on the market has been tested on animals (Johnson). There used to be dozens of rhino species in the world, but animal poaching caused extinction of many of the species. There are only 6 rhino species in the world today (“Wildlife”). On a global scale, animal trafficking sales are estimated to be 10-20 billion U.S. dollars (“Animal

Poaching”). One impact that these issues cause is animal extinction. Without a decrease in these issues, the animals will soon be endangered or extinct. Animal extinction causes an imbalance of the natural ecosystems in the world. It takes strong people to take charge and stop these acts, which is why many animal rights activist groups have taken a stand. In every country around the world, there is some sort of animal issue. Animals are treated unconscionably all over the world, which makes it a global issue.

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## Summary

This report includes information from the internet including: articles, student written reports and websites. Documentaries are also used for information. Many books are used as a reference too. This report establishes why we should care about animal rights and why it is a global issue. Background information is included dating back from ancient Greece.

Contributions to the issue are presented by an expert. The role of control in animal rights is explored. Religious and spiritual views have tremendous influence on animal rights; their influences will be defined and discussed. Three countries will be analyzed to confirm that the issue of animal rights is very real and occurring in the world today. The success or failure of efforts of international organizations will be evaluated and presented in this report. Canada will be explored according to the role that we play in the issue, as well as how it affects us. The global issue of animal rights should not be occurring throughout the world. In this report there will be possible solutions as well as attempts made to improve animal welfare.

## Background

It is hard to find a specific time when awareness of animal rights began. Killing of animals for food and other purposes has been occurring ever since human existence. There has always been an economic influence on people's choices, which can be shown through animal rights issues. People have experimented, sold or bred animals to make money for thousands of years.

Animal rights began as a controversial issue in ancient Greece. Around 300 BCE, Aristotle, a Greek philosopher, argued that humans and animals are very different. He believed that every living organism had a soul. Soul by his definition was the capacity to do natural functions. A hierarchy of values was created by him, which said that plants were created to feed animals and animals were created to feed humans. He deeply believed that humans ruled animals. "Because we have nothing significant in common with a horse or an ox," said Aristotle, "there can be neither friendship nor justice in our relations with them" (Taylor, Philosophical 36). Aristotle was a very influential philosopher in his time, but there were philosophers who disagreed with him. Pythagoras (late 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE), Theophrastus (300-200 BCE) and Empedocles (400 BCE) all had very different views. Pythagoras was Aristotle's student. He was known to be the first animal-rights philosopher who disagreed with the idea of animal sacrifices and advocated vegetarianism. The three philosophers believed in reincarnation in non-human forms. They believed if you eat or sacrifice an animal, you could potentially be eating or sacrificing an ancestor. They argued that animals were able to have emotions, reasoning and perceptions. Centuries later, a philosopher named Porphyry argued that there should be animal justice; not only because animals are rational, but because they are conscious beings who feel pain and terror. He wrote a lot of works on vegetarianism. During 300 BCE, there was a lot of controversy with animal rights, just like there is today (37).

A new science developed after the Middle Ages, it was animal vivisection. René Descartes believed that animals were machines. Since he believed animals were machines, they were equivalent to machines such as a clock. Animals were thought to be material objects and had no state of consciousness. He believed that they had sensory equipment, which is how they reacted to situations (38). To further explore the body of animals, they would cut open the live

animals and inflict pain to see their reactions. The cry of the animals was thought to be the squeaking of the machine. Many times their vocal boxes were cut out so they wouldn't be able to make noise. Descartes created two tests to determine if animals were conscious beings or machines. The first test was a language test. He believed that animals were not able to communicate and it was absurd to believe they had their own language or that they could communicate telepathically (39). The second test was the ability to perform many different actions. Machines were programmed to do something better than humans can. Descartes argued that animals have many inabilities and no reason, so they are machines (40). Descartes' views were challenged many times in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (41). John Locke, a great philosopher, disagreed with Descartes' view. He believed that animals have minds and perceptions. Locke believed that animal cruelty was wrong (44). Descartes believed that animals and humans were drastically different and they had no similarities to us because they were machines.

Although animal testing is cruel, it has helped make many medical breakthroughs. Without animal testing some of these medical breakthroughs may not have occurred. Some medical breakthroughs that have been discovered because of animal testing are: the vaccination for smallpox, organ transplants, vaccination for polio, brain exploration, and many others. One test called the Draize Eye Test was often tested on rabbits. Rabbits eyes are held open with metal clamps and different types of household chemicals were put on their eyeballs to see the damage that would occur. This test took seven days and afterwards the rabbits were killed. Another test was the inhalation test, which was normally done on dogs and rats. The animals would inhale a lethal amount of tobacco smoke to see the effects of smoking. The animals were severely injured from the testing and normally did not receive any medical help. Usually the animals were disposed of after testing. Animal testing has helped save millions of humans lives, but at the

same time, has killed many animals. Animal rights groups such as PETA and ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) have saved many animals lives by stopping some companies from testing on animals (“History”).

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) was established in the United States in 1966. The AWA “is the federal law that governs the humane care, handling, treatment, and transportation of animals used in laboratories” (“Welfare”). The act was established to create minimum maintenance and living standards for the animals. There are fines for the disobeying the act, but they are rarely enforced. Laboratory inspections are very rare due to lack of funding from the government, so usually the minimum standards are not very often met. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the company that inspects laboratories. In the United States, there are 8 300 facilities that are supposed to be inspected. But in the APHIS, there are only 70 inspectors. It is very unlikely that 70 people are able to inspect 8 300 facilities annually. The Animal Welfare Act was supposed to help animal laboratory conditions, but was not often enforced. Everyday animals are still tortured in laboratories and it is left to the animal rights activists groups to bring the cruelty to justice (“Welfare”).

Many important people over the centuries have stood up for animal rights. Ingrid Newkirk, Paul McCartney, Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln, Gandhi and many more people have all believed in the equality of humans and animals (“Famous”).

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." -- Gandhi

## Issue Expert

There are many knowledgeable people who have spent their lives trying to help animals. One person who is making a significant difference as an animal rights activist is Ingrid Newkirk. She almost single-handedly created the world's biggest animal activist group called People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Ingrid Newkirk was born in Surrey, England. She lived in England until she was seven years-old and then moved to New Delhi. In New Delhi she volunteered a lot, especially with stray animals ("Ingrid"). Newkirk never even gave thought to animal rights or vegetarianism until she brought stray kittens into an animal shelter. She then started working for the government to find animals that were mistreated. Seeing animals being neglected, she believed there needed to be an organization to help the animals (I Am An Animal). Some other jobs that she had included a deputy sheriff in Maryland, where she had the highest success rate in convicting animal abusers, the director of cruelty investigations for the humane society and the chief of animal disease control in Washington. When Ingrid started PETA, she coordinated the first arrest ever in the United States on a scientist in a laboratory. The scientist was guilty of committing cruelty to animals. In Taiwan, she helped create the first ever anti-cruelty law. She has created many campaigns for issues against animals, including stopping General Motors from using animals for crash-tests. PETA has achieved many closures and arrests of various companies. They have exposed many horrors of animal cruelty in laboratories and factories ("Ingrid").

Many people believe Ingrid Newkirk has crossed the line with her protests and other ways of getting media attention, but the amount of progress she has made with animal rights would have never been achieved without her drastic methods (I Am An Animal):

Since it was founded, PETA has exposed horrific animal abuse in laboratories, leading to many firsts, including canceled funding, closed facilities, seizure of animals, and charges filed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. PETA has also closed the largest horse-slaughter operation in North America, convinced dozens of major designers and hundreds of companies to stop using fur, ended all car-crash tests on animals, cleaned up wretched animal pounds, helped schools switch to alternatives to dissection, and provided millions of people with information on vegetarianism, companion animal care, and countless other issues. (“Ingrid”)

She received the Living Legacy Award in 2002. The Living Legacy Award is for women who have greatly contributed to humanity. In her years at PETA, she has written many books regarding animal rights such as Save the Animals, Free the Animals, The PETA Practical Guide to Animal Rights and many more (“Ingrid”).

Ingrid Newkirk deeply believes “that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment” (I Am An Animal). She is one of the most influential animal rights activists and continues to spread her word all over the world.

## Role of Control

Since inequality of humans and animals has been occurring since the beginning of time, one source to blame is the Bible and other religious material. The Bible has scriptures saying that man owns animal and they are our property. This will be further discussed in Religion and Spirituality. These scriptures influenced opinions and views on animals.

Like many things in life, animal rights have a huge economic influence. The major companies and laboratories have a large amount of money in their industry. Without the amount of money the companies have, they would not be able to experiment on animals. In the United States, approximately 12 million dollars is spent on animal experimentation a year. Animal experimentation will be discussed further in the China case study. Trafficking of animals occurs because there is a demand for exotic animals. Animal trafficking will be further discussed in the Brazil case study. Poaching of animals occurs because poachers want a profit from the purchase of animal parts. This will be further discussed in the Zimbabwe case study. Animal issues all over the world happen because of greed. People are constantly searching for economic growth and they believe animals are theirs to kill and torture.

The animals would benefit from more control and their lives would be safer. If there were more laws regarding animal rights then many problems would not exist. Every person should care about the welfare of animals. Many people believe there are more important issues in the world. There are many problems in the world, but animal rights are an issue that should be considered.

One solution to break the role of control is public awareness. Many animal activist groups do sit-ins, protests and other activities to rouse media attention. Once the media is involved, the company will be interviewed and eventually the public will know what they have

been doing. For example, PETA has worked to shut down 70 factories in the United States (“I Am An Animal”)

### Religious and Spiritual Views

Animal rights are mentioned throughout many religions in the world. Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and Christianity all have beliefs related to the treatment of animals. All of these religions differ greatly in their beliefs.

In the Islamic religion animal cruelty is prohibited. The Muslims created humane slaughtering rules. The rules are that the slaughtering tool cannot be sharpened near the animal, the animal must be slaughtered in the least painful way and an animal cannot be slaughtered in front of another animal. The Islam religion has six rules regarding animal rights. First, pets or farm animals must be provided with food, shelter and, water. Second, animals cannot be beaten or tortured. The Prophet of Mercy once passed an animal with a branded face. He said, “Has it not reached you that I have cursed the one who brands an animal’s face or hits it on its face?” (“Humane”). This shows that the Prophets cursed people who beat animals. Third, birds or other animals cannot be used for shooting practice. Ibn Umar was a companion of Prophet Muhammad; he witnessed men using birds as targets for shooting. Ibn Umar said, “The Prophet cursed anyone who made a living thing into a target for practice” (“Humane”). This means that the Prophet cursed anyone who used animals for target practice. Fourth, separating baby animals from their mothers is not allowed. Fifth, mutilating animals is not allowed for any purpose.

Mutilation includes cutting off ears, legs, or any body part of animals. The last regulation is a sick animal must be treated and helped. These six rules in the Islam religion show their respect for animals. They still eat meat, but the killing of the animal must be humane. The Islam religion has great respect for animals and they believe in the equality of humans and animals (“Humane”).

In the Buddhist religion, they believe in equality of humans and animals. Animals, such as pets, are not classified as anyone’s property. Since they are equal to humans, they sometimes are expected to work. Humans have fears, senses and emotions and Buddhists believe animals do too (Brazier). Buddhists were the first to build animal hospitals. These animal hospitals were created to take care of sick animals. All beings are moving towards enlightenment in Buddhism, this includes animals. So the Buddhists will never harm or discourage any animal during its journey to enlightenment. Buddhism is a very peaceful religion; they believe there is no justification in hurting any beings (Callahan).

Similar to Buddhism, Judaism believes in the proper treatment of animals. Jewish people do not have any specific beliefs that humans and animals are equal, but they believe if you treat an animal badly, it reflects on how you treat people. The Talmud states that Moses was chosen by god because he was “merciful to the flock of a human being, you shall be the shepherd of My flock, Israel” (“Judaism”). Rebekah was chosen to be Isaac’s wife because of her kindness to animals. They believe that they only use animals for their needs when it is absolutely necessary. When an animal is killed, it must be killed in the most painless way. Tzar Baalei Chayim is a law preventing animal cruelty. Any animal that is used for work in fields are not muzzled. They are not muzzled because they believe that animals have just as much right to eat the food in the fields as we do. The Jewish religion believes that animals have psychological emotions. If baby

animals were taken from their mother, they would make sure the mother didn't see. This was done so the mother didn't get stressed and upset ("Judaism"). The Judaism religion is very similar to Buddhism and Islam religion in the way that they treat animals.

One present day religious group that helps animals is called CARE (Christian Animal Rights Effort). This Christian ministry was designed to liberate animals from suffering. This group was created because Christians have a negative view of animals. The creator believes Christians should change their views of animals and that is what CARE strives for ("Christian").

In most cases, Christianity has a negative view of animals. In Genesis 1:28, man is told to have "dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth" (Loftus). These words mean that man dominates over animals in the world. There are many Christians who argue that this passage does not mean what it says in a literal sense. It is shown in the Old Testament that animal sacrifices were part of traditions. In festivals and ceremonies, large amount of animals were sacrificed. In the New Testament, the treatment of animals is even worse (Loftus). Peter Singer believes that the New Testament is "completely lacking in any injunction against cruelty to animals, or any recommendation to consider their interests" (Singer 191). Christianity believes that man is superior over any other living thing, including animals. This has a huge impact on people in Canada's opinions because a vast majority of the population in Canada believes in some form of Christianity.

Many religions groups all over the world hold some value of to animal rights. Islam, Buddhism and Judaism are similar in their treatment of animals and Christianity differs greatly. There are many exceptions to these religions because many people have personal beliefs that differ from their general religion.

## CASE STUDY 1

### Animal Trafficking in Brazil

Brazil is a country with many problems, which include poor economy, crime, and poverty. Like many other third world countries, the poverty is high and the economy is poor.

One major problem in Brazil is animal trafficking. The number of exotic animals in Brazil has attracted many criminal organizations. Criminal organizations are interested in exotic animals because they can trade them to other countries for large profits (Duffy). The profits of animal trafficking are approximately one billion dollars annually in Brazil. This profit follows closely behind drug and weapon trafficking. On a global scale, animal trafficking has fifteen billion dollars in profit per year (“Trafficking”). This money benefits the criminal organizations because they make large profits. It also benefits the people of Brazil who sell the animals to the organizations so they are able to provide for their families.

In Brazil, more than 38 million exotic animals are captured each year. After the animals are sold to large organization rings, approximately 40 percent of them survive (“Trafficking”). Exotic birds are the most common animal that is trafficked. They are trafficked to Asia, Europe and North America. The blue macaw is in high demand and sells up to 60 000 dollars. In Brazil, the blue macaw is endangered and with its continued trade, will soon be extinct (Osava). Birds are usually drugged so that they will not make noise due to the change in lighting. On top of that, their beaks are taped shut so they cannot sing (“Trafficking”). Birds are put into small tubes so that they fit in suitcases. Small birds and reptile eggs are hidden in special vests so they can bypass x-rays. Infant turtles are taped so that they stay inside their shells and then put by the dozen into tube socks. Also, infant pythons are put into CD cases (“Exotic”). All of these methods are

to by-pass police officials. If animal trafficking does not decrease, many animals will soon be endangered or extinct.

There are approximately 400 rings of animal smugglers in Brazil. Forty percent of the rings are linked to either drug or weapon trade (Osava). In 1996, Heathrow customs officers discovered large amounts of heroin in the same shipment as live snails. Along with heroin, 39 kilograms of cocaine was forcibly inserted into 225 snakes. All of the reptiles in this smuggling operation died. Not only have animals been used in order to conceal drugs, but large shipments of animals were exchanged for heroin in Bangkok (“Trafficking”). Animals are also used in the illegal weapon trade. Weapons are hidden in crates with animals, then shipped across borders and sold.

Animal trafficking has an impact on Brazilian society. There is an increasing amount of animal cruelty in Brazil due to the large amounts of smuggling. The smuggling of animals into North America from Brazil has effects on its society as well. In North America, there are many zoos and pets stores which sell these animals. Many people buy these non-domestic animals, which can cause many problems. A famous case of trying to domesticate a non-domestic animal is the Charla Nash case. In 2009, Charla was brutally attacked by a chimpanzee and it nearly killed her (“Woman”). Animals that belong in the wild should stay in their natural ecosystem. Life in captivity for these animals usually leads to death either malnutrition, loneliness or the stress of confinement (“Exotic”). Exotic animals are not meant to be domesticated, which has been exposed through many accidents that have happened through out the world.

RENCTAS (The National Network to Fight the Trafficking of Wild Animals) is a NGO group in Brazil. RENCTAS mission statement (translated from Portuguese) is “to consolidate itself as an efficient and respected institution, motivating its employees and collaborators for the

construction of a future without threats to the wild species” (RENCTAS). This organization has a lot of work to do in Brazil because of the large amount of animal trafficking.

One solution to animal trafficking is education. If people in Canada were able to see the horrors of where their pets come from, they would not purchase the animals. This education can be done by the media on television, newspaper and radio. This would cause a decrease in sales of illegal exotic animals and the criminal organizations would go out of business. Another solution to animal trafficking is more fines and penalties. If the Brazilian government created more punishments for animal trafficking then organization rings wouldn't exist. Also the Canadian and American government should enforce more rules on the purchase of exotic animals. Another solution to animal trafficking in Brazil would be to offer alternative jobs to people in poor towns. The people need money and since there are no other opportunities for them, they have to sell animals to large organizations in order to survive. According to Gary Duffy, a reporter from BBC News, “police and other officials are facing an upward battle” in trying to find alternative jobs for the people, since there are very limited resources. This would take a tremendous amount of effort for police officers, which means Brazil would need to hire more officials. The economy in Brazil is struggling, so it would be hard for them to hire more police. It is up to the Brazilian people to stop animal trafficking. They need to stop providing organization rings with animals. Not only does animal trafficking have an impact on the extinction of animals, but it has an impact on the ecosystems. Forests are being destroyed to catch animals, which causes problems for the people and animals of Brazil. Animal trafficking is a large problem throughout the world, especially in Brazil. Animal trafficking needs to be stopped and it is up to the people to do so.

## CASE STUDY 2

### Poaching in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is facing a struggle with food shortages. Although Zimbabwe has been having food shortage problems for the last 10 years, it is currently worse than ever. Millions of people are requiring humanitarian assistance from organizations such as the United Nations. This affects poaching in Zimbabwe because people are hunting animals such as elephants and rhinoceroses. They are hunting these large animals because they are in desperate need of food. Not only are regular people hunting endangered animals, but poachers are killing a lot of them too. Poaching benefits the poachers because they gain money. Many people are in need which causes them to poach. A wildlife ranch owner says that “the animals have no chance now – there are snares everywhere and the poachers are killing much more than they can possibly eat” (Phillips). Poachers are illegally hunting valuable animals such as the sable antelope. By selling the sable antelope they are making money. Poachers are not only killing animals for money, but it is known that poachers are killing these animals for enjoyment. Many animals such as buffalo have been left by poachers to rot in traps (Phillips).

Rhinoceroses are highly affected by the increase in poaching in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is home to the world’s fourth largest population of the endangered black rhino. Since 1970, the rhino population in the world has decreased 90 percent (“Saving”). If this amount of poaching persists, then the existence of the rhinos will slowly decline until they’re extinct. Rhino horns are transported to countries in Asia, mainly China. In China, people believe rhino horns are a form of medicine. According to Saving Rhinos, this is a myth (“Saving”). Rhino conservation experts have called upon international organizations and the Zimbabwe government to try to get them to

enforce more laws and punishment on poachers. It is especially hard for the conservation experts to protect the rhinos because poachers are involved in large organized gangs. The gangs are not only killing the rhinos, but they are shooting all people that are trying to protect them, such as conservation experts (Larson). The government is not enforcing the law on those caught poaching elephants because of their economy. In September 2009, a gang who admitted to killing 18 rare rhinos was freed shortly after their arrest (“Saving”). An expert on the rhino poaching in Zimbabwe is Raoul du Toit, the director of Zimbabwe’s Lowveld Rhino Trust. Raoul du Toit, believes they “must attach an economic value to rhinos so that local people can be given businesslike financial incentives to protect assets of which they should be co-owners. It is the best hope for the future” (Yulee). He believes that by giving rhinos more economic value, they will be cherished more and not poached as much. According to Wildlife & Conservation Statistics, rhino horns are worth more than five times the value of gold. With the growing purchasing power of Asian countries and the growing starvation in Zimbabwe, the future for rhinoceroses is not promising. Without the government stepping in and punishing more criminals, poaching will increase until rhinos are extinct, which causes an imbalance in the food chain.

Along with rhinoceroses, elephants are suffering greatly from the amount of poaching in Zimbabwe. Since the Stone Age, ivory has been used for artwork, tools and many other objects. Scientists are able to identify where the ivory has come from by its translucency, hardness and chemical composition. Just like rhinos, people kill elephants because of their lack of income and the opportunity to make money off of the ivory tusks. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is an organization that helps tackle wildlife trade problems. A main problem for them has been the ivory trade, especially to Asian countries (Collins). CITES

had managed to ban the trade of ivory around 20 years ago. There was a slight decrease in poaching after this, but it has risen again. According to the International Fund for Wildlife Welfare (IFWW), 38 000 elephants are killed for their tusks annually. A majority of the elephants killed in Africa belong to Zimbabwe. Elephant tusks are being sold all over the world from Africa which is causing people to poach them. If this doesn't stop, then in fifteen years elephants will become extinct (Hance). The extinction of elephants will cause an imbalance of ecosystems.

A potential solution to animal poaching is more fines and penalties. Poachers in Zimbabwe should receive jail time when caught poaching. National parks such as Kruger Park in South Africa have been set up to help stop poaching. This is one potential solution to poaching in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe should set up more national parks to help prevent poaching. In national parks, poaching still occurs, but not as often because they have security protecting the animals. Another potential solution would be to allow ivory and tusks to be sold, but only from animals that died from natural causes. It would stop the demand of poaching because countries would be able to purchase ivory and tusks from stores. Mohammad Valli, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, believes that "the best way to combat illegal trading is to undermine it through legal trade." The last potential solution is to take a portion of the elephants and rhinoceroses in national parks and slaughter them for trade. This portion will be traded to other countries, while the other portion stays in the national parks. This would create legal trade and end illegal trade (Valli). All of these solutions can help Zimbabwe's economy and wildlife. Zimbabwe has many problems with poaching, but with help from the government, these problems can end.

## CASE STUDY 3

### Animal Experimentation in China

Drug-trial facilities are frequently set up in China to outsource testing from the United States. This means that drug companies such as Pfizer, Roche and Eli Lilly are setting up labs in China to test their drugs. They are using China as an outsource. Why China? These companies have chosen China because scientists are cheap and there are no protestors due to the government (Pocha). They do not want protestors from organizations such as PETA because it causes bad media attention. These protestors are protesting animal cruelty.

Animal experimentation occurs mostly due to medical research and curiosity. According to PETA, in 2005 the United States conducted experiments on 1.14 million animals, Canada conducted experiments on 2.32 million animals and the United Kingdom conducted experiments on 2.45 million animals. The majority of these animals suffered pain without any pain relief. Experimentation is divided up into three categories: toxicity testing, education and training or basic research. Most people believe that all animal testing is necessary to find a cure for diseases such as AIDS and cancer. Studies show that two-thirds of animal experimentation has nothing to do with curing diseases or advancing medicine (“Experiments”). The United States, Canada and the United Kingdom have more laws than China against animal cruelty; also they have organizations such as PETA to protest against animal cruelty. Since there are a lot of things stopping companies from experimenting on animals, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom have resorted to moving their companies to different countries to avoid complications. Not only are these countries avoiding complications, but they are gaining more money by paying workers small wages.

Animal regulations are scarcely enforced in Beijing, which is why it is a hotspot for outsourcing. Animal welfare acts weren't developed in China until 2004, so people rarely follow the rules. China's documentation is hard to find because they rarely complete it. This means that information is not commonly recorded ("Testing"). Glen Rice, who is the Chief Executive at Bridge Pharmaceuticals Inc. says that "this is a country with a large number of canines and primates, and if we establish pre-clinical testing facilities here, we can change the dynamics of the industry" ("Outsourcing"). Rice wants to outsource his company to China in order to pay less for the creation of his pharmaceuticals. He believes that this is a major step that all companies should be taking. Since China does not have any religious controversy with animal testing, he believes it is the best country to outsource. Without religious complaints and few protestors, they will be able to get more work done without any distractions. Rice believes that there is no substitute to animal testing and "if we stopped animal testing, new drug development would stop short in its tracks" ("Outsourcing"). Animal experimentation is a growing problem because of the increasing amount of companies outsourcing to China.

Animal experimentation in China can be stopped by the countries that are outsourcing it. These countries are mainly the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. If these countries found alternative ways to make animal experimentation cheaper, then they would not need to start experimenting in China; although this would still continue the abuse of animal rights. If more money was given by the government to the drug-trial facilities they would not have to outsource. But, if the government were to give more money to the facilities, they would need to enforce animal welfare more. The painful testing that is used on animals is not right and should be stopped. That is why organizations such as PETA have been created. Animal experimentation will continue throughout the future unless an alternative is created.

## Organizations

There are various international organizations that base their missions on protecting animal rights. There are world-wide organizations such as PETA, but also many IGO's and NGO's. The failure and success of each organization will be discussed throughout this section.

PETA is the largest animal rights organization in the world, with over 2 million members. For more than 25 years, Ingrid Newkirk has been the PETA President. Four animal rights issues that are focused in PETA are factory farms, laboratories, clothing trade and entertainment industry. These are not the only issues that PETA focuses on, but they are the main ones ("Mission"). Most people would say that PETA has an "over-the-top" attitude about animal rights, but that is their method and it is successful in many cases. Their "over-the-top" attitude includes protests in stores and on streets and they frequently relate animal cruelty to the Holocaust (Adam). In 1981, PETA convicted an animal experimenter for the first time. The experimenter was charged with animal abuse and the first ever suspension of federal research due to animal cruelty. This was PETA's first milestone; from then until now they have had many more. The most recent victory that PETA had was ending all animal testing in the world's largest green tea company ITO EN Ltd. ITO EN Ltd has made more than 3 billion dollars a year in sales. They used very deadly experiments on animals such as drowning and surgical procedures ("Victories"). Many articles, such as The Luxe Chronicles believe that PETA's drastic tactics will be the failure of PETA. The Luxe Chronicles believe that if PETA changed their tactics, then they would have more success in their animal rights missions ("Revenge"). Whether or not their drastic methods work, they have had success over the years that they have been operating.

ALF (Animal Liberation Front) is an organization that has more drastic approaches to exploiting companies that do not follow animal rights policies. They frequently break into companies and rescue animals. The members of the ALF are unknown because they would be arrested for breaking and entering, theft and vandalism. There are suspicions that the ALF and PETA work together, but it has not been proved. While PETA supports the ALF, they do not partake in any of their methods.

WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) has been promoting animal welfare for over 25 years. They have four focused areas, which are: companion animals, commercial exploitation of wildlife, farm animals and disaster management. The WSPA focuses on parts of the world where there are very few animal rights. The United Nations and the Council of Europe are alliances with the WSPA in their mission to animal welfare (“About”). The WSPA’s most recent missions were in Israel and Palestine. The WSPA lifted the burden off of many horses and donkeys that were mistreated by their owners. The WSPA donated money to people who are setting up aid shelters for the animals (“Easing”).

## Canada

Through the media it is seen that countries all over the world are facing problems regarding animal rights. Many people in Canada are unaware of the animal rights problems in their country. Factory farms are one of the animal rights issues in Canada. There are three main

animals that kept in factory farms in Canada. These three animals are pigs, cattle and chickens. Over 95 percent of the meat consumed in Canada has been raised in factory farms. The animals that are kept in factory farms live without sunlight, family and space to move (“Factory”). These animals live tortured lives.

Thirty million pigs go through factory farms per year in Canada. When they are piglets their tails are cut off, teeth clipped, ears notched and they are castrated. All of these procedures are done without any anesthetics (“Factory”). These procedures are done to make sure the pigs cannot gnaw on any part of their body. Sows (mother pigs) are kept in cages that are two feet long. The mothers are unable to move and are forced to lie there as piglets drink their milk. Sows lie in their own feces, so many of them suffer from disease and disorders (“Lives”). Pigs, both male and female, go through the horrors of factory farms and then are sent to slaughterhouses.

There are three types of cattle that live in factory farms: dairy cows, veal calves and beef cattle. Dairy cows in Canada produce seven times more milk than they are naturally supposed to produce (“Factory”). This is because they are pumped with hormones and drugs to make them produce more milk (“Lives”). The life expectancy for regular dairy cows is 25 years. The dairy cows in factory farms are usually slaughtered after three years. They cannot last much longer than three years because of the amount of milk and calves they produce. The dairy cows go through a rapid cycle of pregnancy in order to produce more milk. They are separated from their calves within hours of birth. This causes a lot of stress on the cows (“Factory”). All of the calves that are produced by the dairy cows are slaughtered for veal. The Ontario Farm Animal Council says that “veal farming has made it possible to turn by-products of the dairy industry into a positive contribution to our food chain” (“Lives”). The Ontario Farm Animal Council believes that they are being efficient by using the calves that are produced by the dairy cows for veal. The

calves are kept in a box that doesn't allow them to move. They are kept in these boxes so that muscle doesn't develop. The meat is tenderer when there is less muscle. The calves suffer from diarrhea, pneumonia, lameness and anemia. These calves usually never make it to adulthood; they live a short life of darkness. In Ontario, there are around 600 veal farms which are worth about 450 million dollars ("Lives"). Beef cattle are put in feedlots. In these feedlots there are up to 40 000 beef cattle and very little room for movement. The cattle get castrated, dehorned and branded without any anesthetics. The feedlots can cause harm to anyone living near the lots because of the amount of ammonia, methane and other chemicals in the air from the large amount of feces. The large amounts of chemicals cause respiratory problems and other diseases to people living near the feedlots. When the cattle get sick they are shipped to a slaughterhouse ("Factory"). Cattle in factory farms do not live a long nor happy life. In the eyes of industry owners having factory farms are a lot cheaper and efficient than regular farms.

In Canada, over 600 million chickens die each year in the farming industry. There are two types of chickens that are present at factory farms. These two types are broiler chickens and egg-laying hens. Broiler chickens are kept in big sheds that can house up to 50 000 chickens. In Canada, there are around 3 000 broiler chicken farms. They are pumped with hormones and become an irregular size. The chickens have many leg problems because they are unable to support their body weight. There are many chickens in one shed causing many diseases to circulate within it ("Lives"). The workers are careless when they load the chickens into trucks. They are sent to factory farms after they are put into trucks. Frequently chickens are trampled and left to die in the sheds. These chickens live a very short life of up to 48 days. The egg-laying hens have even a worse life. Egg-laying hens are some of the most abused animals in the world. These hens are killed at around a year and a half years old. Regular chickens are supposed to live

up to twenty years. Several chickens are put in small cages where they are unable to move. They are missing most of their feathers due to rubbing against the cage and other chickens (“Lives”). Although it is more efficient and cheaper to use factory farming methods for chickens, millions of chickens are abused each year.

Another issue that is prominent in Canada is puppy mills. A puppy mill is described as a high-volume dog-breeding operation that sells directly or indirectly to buyers (“What”). The puppies that are bred in mills have many health issues which can include genetic problems due to inbreeding, diseases from the dirty conditions and malnutrition (Appendix I). These dogs are bred only for profit, with no concern for their physical or mental health (“What”). Puppy mills are illegal in Canada, although many exist. Dogs that are sold in pet stores are frequently from puppy mills. The puppies are usually sold to a broker, who is the middle man. The broker then sells the puppies to pet stores. Pet stores are usually not aware that their dogs are from puppy mills because of the broker. The dogs from puppy mills can have a lower life expectancy than normal dogs because of the health problems they receive while being in the puppy mill (Appendix I). Many dogs in Canada have been bred in illegal puppy mills which lead to health problems later on in their lives.

Canada has been thought to be the safest country for animals, but Canada has a lot of animal rights issues such as factory farming and puppy mills. It is up to organizations such as PETA to bring justice for the animals. Overall, every country has animal rights problems, including Canada. Canada also does many things to help in the struggle for animal rights. The Humane Society is one organization that helps animals. The Humane Society of Canada helps protect dogs, cats, horses, birds, small animals, livestock, lab animals, wildlife and the environment. They have created programs to help animals and nature, expose cruelty through

undercover investigations, work to pass laws to protect animals, support animal shelters and wildlife rehabilitation centres. Organizations like the Humane Society are the reason why Canada has a good reputation for being one of the safest countries in the world for animals.

### Possible Solutions

Animal rights problems occur in every country in the world. Without solutions the problems will grow until the extinction of animals, causing an imbalance of ecosystems. Some possible solutions to help or stop the current problems today are strict adoption rules, more law enforcement, larger factory farms and more routine checks. Each of these solutions has its pros and cons.

Any adult can walk into a pet store or adoption centre and buy or adopt an animal. The animal could potentially be going to a family who treats it as an object or abuses it. Adoption centres and pet stores should set up mandatory classes for anyone who is planning on buying or adopting an animal. These classes would promote treating their animals with respect. This would ensure that the owner knows how to take care of their animal and could lead to less abuse and neglect from their families. The cons about this solution are that it might discourage people from adopting. It would discourage them because they do not want to spend their time in classes. Fewer animals would be adopted and there would be an overflow of animals at adoption centres.

Enforcing classes on people who want to adopt or buy an animal would ensure that the owner would have more responsibility and dedication to the animal.

There are many illegally trafficked animals around the world, as well as many other illegal issues regarding animal rights. There would be more punishment for crimes if there was more law enforcement in countries around the world. This would stop a lot of the crime going on in the world. There should be a higher amount of surveillance in companies that experiment on animals. If there was more surveillance, then there would be less animal cruelty. The problem with this solution is that it will cost the government more money to hire more crime prevention officials. Many countries would not be willing or able to afford it.

Factory farms are overpopulated with animals causing them to be cramped into small areas. These cramped spaces cause disease among the animals. Factory farms should cut down on the amount of animals that are kept in the farms at once. This would improve their quality of life because they would have more room to move. Also, the factory farms should have windows, giving the animals sunlight and fresh air. This would cause meat industries production to decrease. The price of meat would rise because the production companies would need money to install windows in all of the factory farms. Regardless of the amount of money or time it takes, this is a large problem in many countries, especially Canada and the United States.

Factory farms have less routine inspections than there should be. More inspectors should be hired and be put on a regular schedule. This is to make sure companies are not breaking any animal rights regulations. There should be a more enforced strike policy, where if a company breaks the animal rights rules more than twice then their company should be shut down. The companies would be more cautious because they would not want to have their company shut

down. There would be less animal cruelty within the farms if this measure was enforced. The problem with this solution, as well as many other solutions, is that it would cost the government a lot of money to hire more inspectors.

More media attention on the problems of animal rights would help bring awareness and knowledge. Newspaper, television and radio should create broadcasts and articles on what is going on in the world regarding animal rights. There should especially be broadcasts and articles on problems going on in Canada such as factory farming and puppy mills.

As it is shown through every solution, there is a large demand for more money from the government. If the government were to invest more money into animal rights, then many of the current problems in the world would not exist. In general, the largest solution to all of the problems in the world regarding animal rights is money. Money can help bring less cruelty into homes or factory farms. This is a solution that the government should invest in.

## Conclusion

It is evident that the global issue of animal rights is a legitimate issue that should be taken seriously by every global citizen. The amount of data collected throughout this report shows how several countries around the world, including Canada, need assistance in solving these problems. Many organizations all over the world have made it their mission to help animals. These organizations have made tremendous accomplishments and continue to strive for the equality of

humans and animals. There have been many accomplishments, but there are still many problems that need to be solved. With the cooperation of countries all over the world, cruelty to animals could become an issue of the past.

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## Appendices

# Appendix I: Telephone Interview with Ashley from the Barrie SPCA

1. What happens with the puppies and kittens rescued from puppy and kitten mills?

The SPCA mainly deals with the enforcing side. They are put in our care and then given to shelters or vets depending on their state. After they are helped they are put up for adoption.

2. Since puppy and kitten mills are illegal in Canada, how are they sold to pet stores?

It is not illegal for pet stores to sell animals that have been in mills. There is usually a “middle man” called the broker. He is the one who finds buyers and sells the animals to them. A lot of the time the pet stores are not aware they are selling animals from mills.

3. What are common health and mental problems do the animals that have been bred in mills have?

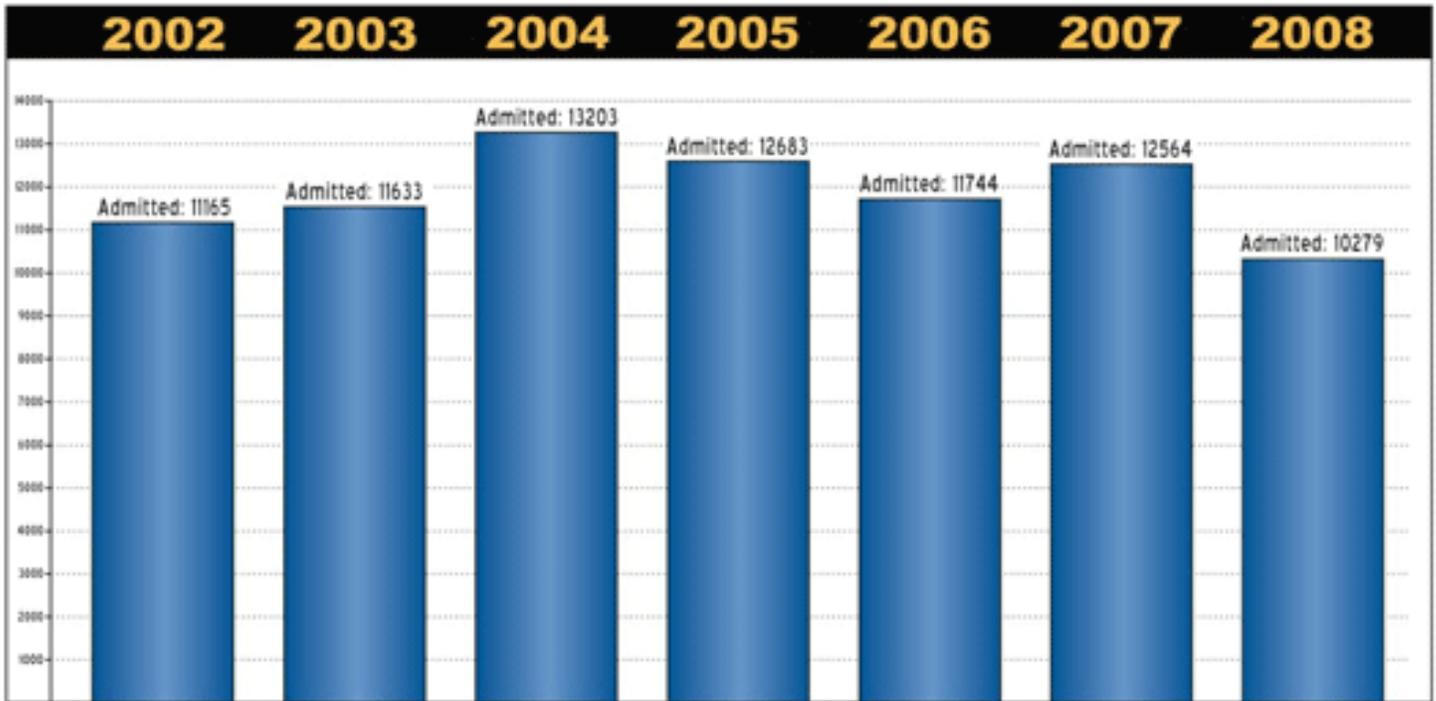
It varies depending on the condition of the mill. Sometimes there are genetic problems due to inbreeding. There is commonly malnutrition and many diseases. These diseases are usually from dirty conditions at the mills.

4. What is the average life expectancy of a dog at a puppy mill compared to a regular dog?

There is not necessarily any common difference, but there is a pattern because dogs coming from mills usually have diseases. These diseases shorten their life expectancy.

## Appendix II

### **The Toronto Humane Society All Admitted Animals 2002-2008**



Source: Shelter Activity Reports 2002-2008

# Appendix III

## The Toronto Humane Society Combined Cat & Dog Activity Comparison 2002-2008

