The History Of Animal Experimentation

- Dissections performed by Egyptians, Chinese on cadavers
- Medical and physical discoveries of Galen (c300BE), Aristotle and others using animals

The History Of Animal Experimentation – Justification

- Christian church recognised "mans dominion over animals" (Thomists)
- Cartesian thesis (Descartes) 1637 stated that is possible to describe humans and animals as complex machines, their bodies obeying the laws of mechanics. Only humans however were conscious, capable of rational thought, free will and had language.....The reactions of non-humans to stimuli were dismissed as mere reflexes

The History Of Animal Experimentation – Concern

- Boyle (vacuum, b 1627), Hooke (respiration b1635) and Lower (blood transfusion b 1631) had genuine concern for the suffering of their subjects but thought the benefits outweighed the cost.
- O’Meara (1655) "surely the miserable torture of vivisection places the body in an unnatural state"
The History Of Animal Experimentation - Ethics

Voltaire (1764)
“How absurd, to say that beasts are machines, devoid of knowledge and feeling. .................... Answer me, machinist, has nature arranged all the springs of feeling in this animal in order that he should not feel? Has he nerves in order to be unmoved?”

Humphry Primatt (1776)
“Now, if amongst men, the difference of their powers of the mind, of their complexion, stature, and accidents of fortune, do not give anyone man a right to abuse or insult any other man ..........; for the same reason, a man can have no natural right to abuse or torment a beast...”

Jeremy Bentham (1789)
“What else is it that should trace the insuperable line? Is it the faculty of reason, or perhaps the faculty of discourse? But a full grown horse or dog is beyond comparison a more rational, as well as a more conversable animal, than an infant of a day or a week or even a month, old. But suppose they were otherwise, what would it avail? The question is not, Can they reason? nor Can they talk? but, Can they suffer?”

Bernard (b1813)
Have we the right to make experiments on animals and vivisect them? ... I think we have this right, wholly and absolutely. It would be strange indeed if we recognised man's right to make use of animals in every walk of life, for domestic service, for food, and then forbade him to make use of them for his own instruction in one of the sciences most useful to humanity .......... that results obtained on animals may all be conclusive for man when we know how to experiment properly.

Opposition (reason and emotion)
- Differences between species.
- Humanitarian – a rejection of Descartes - pain should be considered
- Similarities between species -Empathy

Utilitarianism (reason and emotion)
- consideration of animals’ ability to suffer and our ability to show mercy

SPCA 1824
Antivivisection societies on all continents
Abolitionists opposed by Scientific Groups
The History Of Animal Experimentation - Action

Demonstration of anaesthetic effects of ether 1847

British Association for the Advancement of Science (1871 – published Guidelines)

The History Of Animal Experimentation - Action

British Association for the Advancement of Science

1. No procedure which could be performed with anaesthesia should be done without it.

2. No painful experiment was justifiable if it were only being conducted to illustrate an already known fact.

3. Whenever painful experiments were necessary, every effort ought to be made to ensure the success of the procedure, so that the experiment need not be repeated. For this reason, no such experiments should be performed by unqualified scientists with insufficient instruments or assistance, or in places not suited to the purpose.

4. Operations should not be performed using living animals merely for the purpose of gaining new operative skills.

The University of London Animal Welfare Society started by Major Charles Hume (1926) – UFAW

* UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals (1947) now 6th Ed

Chapter 6: “The three Rs”
The History Of Animal Experimentation – C20

The Moral Status of Animals
- Ethics vs. Morals
  - Slavery / women’s rights / children’s rights
  - Racism / sexual orientation / religious freedom
- Singer (1975) animal equality of interests (Animal Liberation) – Animal Welfare
- Gallup (1994) Self Recognition in Chimps and Orangutans

Animal Rights
- inherent value to protect them against exploitation of any kind.

Animal Welfare
- advocating for the betterment of the condition of animals, but without abolishing animal use

Where are we now? Animal Ethics
- Does this align with your morals (character) or your ethics (social system)?
- We have an obligation to improve life on this planet for ourselves and other species
- We have the imperative to make decisions
- We are within our rights to use other species
- Experimentation is an inescapable necessity
- We are obligated to use our unique skills to prevent unnecessary animal suffering

Thank You