

Strongest Backbone

Pat Buchanan

It's not often that you hear Pat Buchanan's name mentioned in the same sentence as the word "progressive," but this politically conservative pundit has twice made the gutsy decision to place animal rights issues squarely on the cover of his Vienna, Virginia-based magazine *American Conservative*. Both cover stories focused on works by former George W. Bush speechwriter Matthew Scully, who strongly believes that "compassionate conservatism" must be extended to the billions of animals raised and killed for food. In his book *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy* (winner of a 2003 Progy) and his essay "Fear Factories: The Case for Compassionate Conservatism—for Animals," Scully describes the horrors of factory farms and slaughterhouses and asks why, if we are appalled by cruelty to a puppy, we regard with indifference the abuse and mutilation of billions of chickens, cows, and pigs, who are also intelligent, sensitive animals.

