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 ~ Wesley J. Smith (Author)
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Review

"Like every antidemocratic ideology, this one [animal rights] is by definition antihuman, and like any antihuman ideology, it ultimately deteriorates into a nihilistic bitterness that is anti-life. . . . Wesley J. Smith knows too well that if the activists ever succeeded in their goals, if they established through culture or law that human beings have no intrinsic dignity greater than that of any animal, the world would not be a better place for either humankind or animals."

Dean Koontz

Product Description

Over the past thirty years, as Wesley J. Smith details in his latest book, the concept of animal rights has been seeping into the very bone marrow of Western culture. One reason for this development is that the term "animal rights" is so often used very loosely, to mean simply being nicer to animals. But although animal rights groups do sometimes focus their activism on promoting animal welfare, the larger movement they represent is actually advancing a radical belief system.

For some activists, the animal rights ideology amounts to a quasi religion, one whose central doctrine declares a moral equivalency between the value of animal lives and the value of human lives. Animal rights ideologues embrace their beliefs with a fervor that is remarkably intense and sustained, to the point that many dedicate their entire lives to "speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves." Some believe their cause to be so righteous that it entitles them to cross the line from legitimate advocacy to vandalism and harassment, or even terrorism against medical researchers, the fur and food industries, and others they accuse of abusing animals.

All people who love animals and recognize their intrinsic worth can agree with Wesley J. Smith that human beings owe animals respect, kindness, and humane care. But Smith argues eloquently that our obligation to humanity matters more, and that granting "rights" to animals would inevitably diminish human dignity.

In making this case with reason and passion, *A Rat Is a Pig Is a Dog Is a Boy* strikes a major blow against a radically antihuman dogma.

Product Details

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REAL NAME

This review is from: [A Rat Is a Pig Is a Dog Is a Boy: The Human Cost of the Animal Rights Movement \(Hardcover\)](#)

Wesley J. Smith is an attorney and author of several books, a fact which explains the lucid writing style, absence of rancor, and superb attention to detail and documentation. A previous review explained Smith's reasoning for rejecting the ideology of animal rights so I will focus on other issues.

The book is divided into three sections. The first addresses the ideology and non-violent aspects of animal rights (AR) activism. Smith explains how the AR movement frequently utilizes propaganda like techniques to sway the public to their cause. Part II reveals the more sinister side of the movement by detailing terroristic activities perpetrated by members of the radical fringe of the AR movement, such as the Animal Liberation Front. Perhaps the most frightening aspect of this section is how Smith carefully shows how mainstream AR activists have failed to harshly condemn violence and terror used to further their cause and in some cases even employed those involved in violent activities. The last section explains how animals have benefited humans and how adoption of the AR agenda will diminish humanity. Of particular note, is his careful discussion of the role animal testing has in medical advances which contradicts the repeated claims of many AR activists and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

Smith is careful with his wording and avoids painting with broad strokes. He concedes examples of cruelty when he believes the evidence supports it. In my opinion, Smith's greatest contribution consists in his insight into the way AR activists manipulate the media, the public, and assault the judicial system in a take-no-prisoners attempt to implement their agenda. Those who are sympathetic to the AR agenda, should read this book, and carefully consider the implications of AR beliefs, before they convert. Smith's way of turning AR logic on its head will leave readers much to ponder.

Those unsympathetic to AR, should read this book to get the facts needed to learn how to identify AR political strategy in order to counteract it.

Stephen M. Vantassel is an eco-theologian, an expert in wildlife damage management, and author of [Dominion over Wildlife: An Environmental Theology of Human-wildlife Relations](#) (Wipf and Stock, 2009).

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REAL NAME

This review is from: [A Rat Is a Pig Is a Dog Is a Boy: The Human Cost of the Animal Rights Movement \(Hardcover\)](#)

It's obvious that Aledo didn't even read the book (Like Gag! OMG!). I however, I did and thought it was great. I enjoyed the examples of PETA propaganda such as the Silver Springs Monkey case and the discussion of the difference between Animal Rights and Animal Welfare. The author pointed out that Animal Rights advocates often kill more animals than they purport to help as in PETA killing 97% of the animals they take in. What happens to minks from fur farms when they are released into the wild? They kill local wildlife, die of starvation, or are hunted down by people for being destructive (killing pigs, chickens, and destroying property). The book was well written , easy to read and I recommend it to anyone who wants to know what Animal Rights Activists true goals are.

Animals cannot be given rights as they are not moral agents. They do not request rights not because they cannot speak but because they do not have the capacity to understand the rights we could give them, nor would they respect the rights of others. Would we put a Mountain Lion on trial for killing a human or if said Lion killed another animal? I haven't heard of destroying the nests of birds while foraging for food? Why is no one calling for the trial and execution (maybe some loons are but I elephant for doing it) of Tilly the whale? Because Tilly, as an animal, did not understand what it did was wrong nor could it.

Animals do benefit from associating with humans. When under our care they are for the most part provided safety, food, shelter, and an extended lifespan. If they are food animals they will be provided with a swift, humane death, something that they would not be given in the wild. Animals are an essential part of human lives and as omnivores, are required for our survival. In cold climates, their fur and feathers are needed as well.

Someone who is religious and abstains from alcohol and in some cases sex is not morally better than someone who does not. Animal Rights activists are morally no different from the very religious; in fact their movement is very similar to a religion as it is based on emotion and belief rather than science and reason.

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REAL NAME

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The animal rights movement wants to take away our freedoms of animal use and ownership. They want to take away American citizens' rights of due process. They seek to make vegans of all us in spite of the fact it is not a truly healthy lifestyle. They attack of animal agriculture with a goal of making our food supply less abundant and more expensive so fewer can afford to eat eggs, milk, meat, etc. They hate humans and would like to see fewer of them in the world. It's not about the animals. PETA killed 96% of the animals it took in last year while the local shelter had nearly half that kill rate. HSUS & ASPCA have participated in raids stripping animal owners of their animals and euthanized them prior to any finding of guilt in a court of law. People are exonerated only to find all their animals have been euthanized, neutered/spayed &/or sold to find all their "rescues". It is a rotten underbelly in our society and it needs to be exposed.

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