



"If all the
beasts were
gone, men
would die from
a great
loneliness of
spirit..."
~ Chief Seattle

Photo credit: Melanie Reding

DRAWING A LINE

Elephantics.org

HIPPOCRATES

460 BC – CA. 370 BC AN ANCIENT GREEK PHYSICIAN, HE IS REFERRED TO AS THE "FATHER OF MEDICINE".

“The soul is the same in all living creatures, although the body of each is different.”

RENE DESCARTES

1596 – 1650 FRENCH PHILOSOPHER OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS, HE WAS DUBBED THE FATHER OF MODERN WESTERN PHILOSOPHY. KNOWN FOR SAYING ANIMALS WERE...

*“thoughtless brutes that were
merely sophisticated
machines lacking
consciousness”*

BENEDICT DE SPINOZA

1632 – 1677 A DUTCH JEWISH ETHICS PHILOSOPHER, HE WAS ONE OF THE FOREMOST EXPONENTS OF 17TH-CENTURY RATIONALISM.

“I do not deny that beasts feel; what I deny is, that we may not consult our own advantage and use them as we please, treating them in the way which best suits us; for their nature is not like ours and their emotions are naturally different from humans’ emotions.”

JEREMY BENTHAM

1748 – 1832 HE WAS AN ENGLISH LAW EXPERT, PHILOSOPHER,
AND LEGAL AND SOCIAL REFORMER.

*The question is not, "Can
they reason?" nor, "Can
they talk?" but rather,
"Can they suffer?"*

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

1788 - 1860 A GERMAN PHILOSOPHER KNOWN FOR HIS
ATHEISTIC PESSIMISM AND PHILOSOPHICAL CLARITY.

“The assumption that animals are without rights and the illusion that our treatment of them has no moral significance is a positively outrageous example of Western crudity and barbarity. Universal compassion is the only guarantee of morality.”

MAHATMA GANDHI

1869 – 1948 AN INDIAN CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, HE BELIEVED IN
NONVIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.

“The greatness of a
nation can be judged by
the way its animals are
treated.”

DAME DAPHNE SHELDRIK

1934 — PRESENT A KENYAN-BRITISH AUTHOR AND CONSERVATIONIST, SHE FOUNDED THE DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST THAT RESCUES AND REHABILITATES ORPHANED ELEPHANTS.

“We should understand and accept that others [animals] that happen to share our planet with us are not ours to manipulate and consume according to our whims but are here for a purpose., They, too, have rights because they are a vital to the well-being of the whole; an integral link in the complex chain of life. They belong to, and are a part of the natural world, of which we humans are also just a part. They are not here simply to be utilized according to the dictates of human vanity and greed as a mindless commodity.”

ACTIVITY 2



1. Factory farming of animals for food (a system of rearing livestock using intensive methods, by which poultry, pigs, or cattle are confined indoors under strictly controlled conditions).
2. Using animals for scientific experiments to test whether products, such as cosmetics and toiletries, are safe for humans use.
3. Using animals for scientific medical experiments such as finding cures for diseases or testing medications.
4. Using animals as service animals for people with differing abilities.
5. Hunting animals for food.
6. Trophy Hunting-hunting animals for sport.

7. Using animals specifically bred and killed for dissection in biology classes.
8. Using animals for riding, pulling farm equipment, or pulling carriages (“beasts of burden”).
9. Keeping animals on public display in places such as zoos and aquariums for education and conservation.
10. Using wild animals for entertainment such as in circuses or by street entertainers.
11. Humane farming of animals for food (animals raised in situations where they are allowed more natural behaviors and suffering is reduced).
12. Hunting, trapping or breeding of fur-bearing animals for fur products such as coats, boots, and hats.

ACTIVITY 3



Asian Elephants

1. Using elephants for logging (the elephants knock down trees and carry logs up to 3630 kg).
2. Elephants being used as transportation for locals (often in roadless regions).
3. Using elephants as pack animals to carry goods over long distances and rough terrain in roadless areas.
4. In religious ceremonies where elephants are often decorated and carry religious objects and march in parades.

5. Elephants giving rides to tourists as part of the tourist industry.
6. In elephant shows and circuses where the elephants perform tricks for tourists.
7. Training elephants to paint memorized pictures for the tourist industry.
8. Used by locals as “cute props” for street begging (usually baby elephants are used).

ELEPHANTS

“They mirror us humans in many ways- in terms of longevity, in terms of development, in terms of family ties and lifelong bonds of friendship. They have all the emotions of us humans- all the good traits and few of the bad.”

~Dame Daphne Sheldrick



Photo Credit: Andrea Duthie

RESOURCES AND CREDITS

Sources used for quotes:

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<http://www.iep.utm.edu/anim-eth/>

<https://www.peta.org.uk/blog/16-quotes-from-famous-thinkers-who-got-it-right-about-animals/>

<https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/html/impact.html>

Sources for elephant uses:

The Burdens of a Beast- <https://www.amnh.org/explore/science-bulletins/bio/documentaries/wild-at-heart-the-plight-of-elephants-in-thailand/the-burdens-of-a-beast>

Photos: Courtesy of Melanie Reding unless otherwise noted.