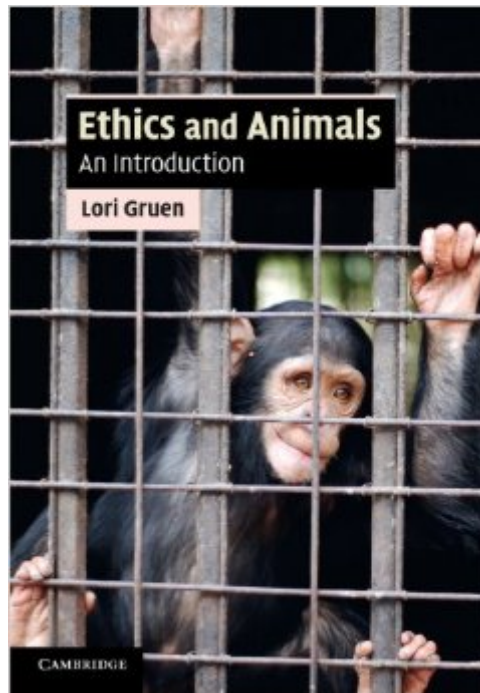


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# Ethics And Animals: An Introduction (Cambridge Applied Ethics)



## Synopsis

In this fresh and comprehensive introduction to animal ethics, Lori Gruen weaves together poignant and provocative case studies with discussions of ethical theory, urging readers to engage critically and empathetically reflect on our treatment of other animals. In clear and accessible language, Gruen provides a survey of the issues central to human-animal relations and a reasoned new perspective on current key debates in the field. She analyses and explains a range of theoretical positions and poses challenging questions that directly encourage readers to hone their ethical reasoning skills and to develop a defensible position about their own practices. Her book will be an invaluable resource for students in a wide range of disciplines including ethics, environmental studies, veterinary science, women's studies, and the emerging field of animal studies and is an engaging account of the subject for general readers with no prior background in philosophy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With the publication of "Ethics and Animals: An Introduction", Lori Gruen sets a new standard on introductory texts on animal ethics. As a professional philosopher who works on and teaches animal ethics, I have waited years for a book like this. "Ethics and Animals" breaks new ground and offers fresh ideas in a discussion that has, in many ways, become somewhat stagnant. This comprehensive, opinionated introduction fills a much-needed lacuna in the literature, providing a model of clarity and balance that the subject requires. Each chapter opens with a compelling account (some poignant, others utterly gripping (I will never forget the images of Val Plumwood's

near-fatal encounter with a crocodile!)) that describes the experiences of a particular animal (human or other), and that acts to establish the theme of the chapter. In chapter 5, 'Dilemmas of Captivity' (one of the many highlights of the book), Gruen breaks new ground as she develops what is a nuanced and original view regarding one of the most fraught topics in the animal ethics literature. Gruen manages to engage the reader with beautiful prose, clear and convincing argumentation, and a sense of fairness and objectivity not often encountered in books on animal ethics. It is rare to find a scholar of such prominence in her field who is able to articulate what are often quite recondite concepts and arguments with such style, clarity, and simplicity, without forgoing the kind of intellectual rigor that this subject demands. I highly recommend this book.

Gruen has a gift for making nuanced ethical arguments easily accessible. As an animal advocate, I found this book extremely helpful as a guide to frame and extend my more intuitive approach to thinking about animals, animal rights and my personal engagement with animals. The vivid illustrative scenes that situate the reader in each chapter really ground the philosophical discussion, never allowing it to veer off into intellectual abstraction. It is not a difficult book to read. In fact, I found it very engaging. It can be demanding, though, only in that it really challenges you to consider your ethical stance towards animals in a variety of situations that are not always comfortable to consider. I highly recommend this book to anyone seeking an intelligent, comprehensive and eminently readable introduction to ethics and animals.

A very thought provoking read. This book is filled with many interesting examples, which really expanded my perspective on the subject of how we treat animals. It's amazing to me that society does not consider this a more important issue.

Lori Gruen grips you at each chapter with a concrete, vivid, and difficult situation relevant to the chapter topic, she uses cutting-edge behavioral and cognitive research along with relevant and timely ecological and economic scientific data. Her overall ecofeminist orientation appears consistently and subtly, along with evenhanded and engaged discussions of ethical theories. All of this delivered in a calm, conversational style that invites thoughtful assessment of even the most controversial and horrific examples of human cruelty to nonhumans. I teach an animal ethics course. I read this book before making it required reading for the class, and on my second reading I'm even more satisfied with it.

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