



Animal Rights? No, Human Responsibility

Marta I. Saloña Bordas

KEYWORDS Human. Non Human Animal. Bioethics. Moral Values. Animal Rights

ABSTRACT A critical reflection focused on our limited moral values and on our attitude toward human and non-human organisms is proposed. I fear that most of the problems of our traditional confrontation about on our moral capability, must be referred both to human and non-human organisms. It is not a question of Who should be included in our moral community but a serious and critical reflection of our moral attitudes toward humans and non-human beings. The basis of the problem is not potential Animal Rights but real Human Responsibilities that we are not assuming, responsibilities as consumers of organic goods with suffering capability. We must assume an urgent commitment to develop a new moral conscience, giving adequate impartial information, education and legislation, according to the new times. At least if we want to go into enter the new century with raising moral. We may never reach an agreement about the concept of moral community or about whether organisms other than persons have or have not rights similar rights toto that owned by persons, because they are not «subjects of duty». But we may reach an agreement; we may accept a fact, that human beings are really different to other organisms; simply different. If we really want to be « The Chosen Species» (cf. Arsuaga, 2000) we have to face the fact that we have been elected for the supervision of our environment, not just for its predation. Perhaps nobody will be there in the future with a bill claiming compensation to for our acts. But this is our real difference; we are here to claim for it.

Author's Address: Marta I. Saloña Bordas, Dpto. de Zoología y Dinámica Celular Animal Facultad de Ciencias
Universidad del País Vasco UPV-EHU Apdo. 644 Leioa -48940 Bilbao, ESPAÑA
E-mail: zopsabom@lg.ehu.es

© Kamla-Raj 2004
Human Ecology Special Issue No. 12: 149-160 (2004)

Societal Responsibilities in Life Sciences
Charles Susanne, Guest Editor