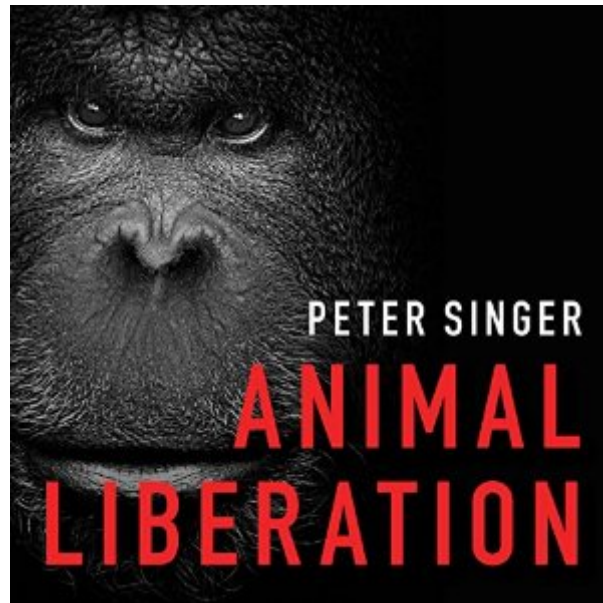


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# Animal Liberation: The Definitive Classic Of The Animal Movement



## Synopsis

First published in 1975, *Animal Liberation* created a sensation upon its release, shaking the world's philosophical and animal-protection circles to their cores. Now, 40 years later, Peter Singer's landmark work still looms large as a foundational and canonical text of animal advocacy. Arguing that all beings capable of suffering deserve equal consideration, Singer contends that the only justifiable treatment of animals is that which maximizes good and minimizes suffering. In examining the cruelty of factory farming and the exploitation, both commercial and scientific, of laboratory animals, he identifies a kind of "ethical blindness" and calls for political action. A moral wake-up call from one of the most influential and controversial ethicists of our time, *Animal Liberation* tackles an emotionally charged social issue with a compelling rational argument in a rousing and riveting listen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Want to upset all the pre-conceptions of your life, and look at the world around you in a radically new way? Then read Peter Singer's book *Animal Liberation*. Written by an Australian philosophy professor in the 1970s, and revised in the early 1990s, *Animal Liberation* is the founding book of the modern animal rights movement. As such, *Animal Liberation* be one of the most influential books of the 20th century. When Singer's book first appeared, animal rights was on the fringe of the fringe. Animal rights advocates, to the extent that they could get any attention from the press at all, were treated as a bunch of nuts. CBS Evening News compared British animal rights advocates to Monty Python characters. But today, especially among young people, animal rights is a major part of political and social activism. So even if you think you're inflexibly opposed to animals having rights,

Singer's book will help you understand the millions of people who disagree with you. Folks who believe that animals have no rights will often assert that because animals are animals, they should have no rights. As Singer points out, the argument is simply a tautology. To say that animals should have no rights because they are animals is no more logical than to say that women should not have rights because they are women, or that Blacks should have no rights because they are Blacks. To say that status as a woman must, in itself, imply that women have no rights is sexism; to say the same about Blacks is racism. And, Singer demonstrates, to say the same about animals is "specism."

Frankly, I had to throw this book away. I ordered it after reading about it in a New Yorker article about the senseless killing of songbirds for fun and food. I expected the book to be a philosophical take on the issue of animal cruelty, which has been something of a big concern for me for many years (pretty much since I became fully cognizant of the fact that poultry and beef didn't grow on trees, and were not some abstract substances, but, at some point, none other than living, breathing, conscious creatures.) The book, however, offers very detailed and extremely disturbing descriptions of various forms of physical and emotional suffering that billions of animals are subjected to in the course of their very short and very miserable lives. The author depicts the practices of "personnel" (supposedly human) working in the food industry (its first link - the meat/dairy plants) and the scientific/laboratory research - which present the two most horrific forms of animal abuse. Speaking about the often used in a "cute" context term "guinea pigs," lab animals are put through unthinkable suffering varying from living through the process of harsh chemicals being instilled in their eyes (rabbits) while they are restrained by special equipment that doesn't allow for any type of movement, as the "scientist" diligently observes and records the damage the chemical does to the eye over the course of several days (the end result - destroyed pupil of the eye.) And let's just leave it at that, it's the mildest of the experiments cited by the author (and accompanied by several pictures of the above mentioned rabbit, its eyes and the equipment). I was only able to go a few pages into the chapter before I had to put this book aside due to the palpitations I felt in my chest.

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