



ANIMAL ETHICS

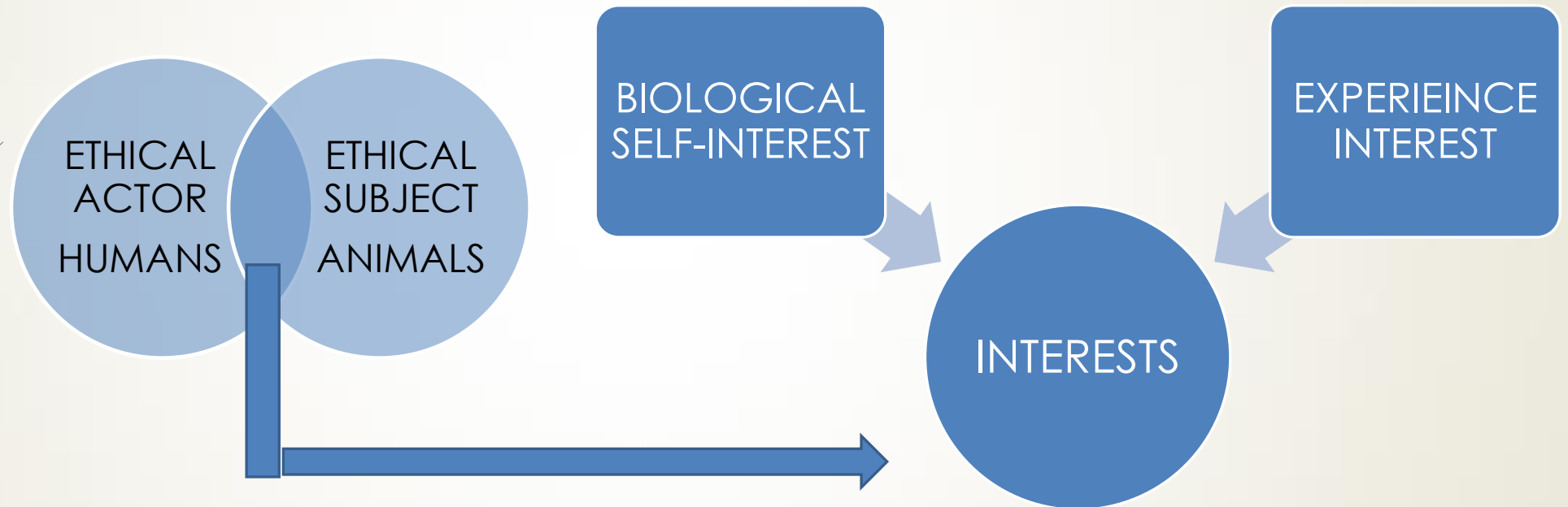
WE ALL HAVE INTERESTS

Dr. Sohini Mahapatra



ANIMALS,
ANIMALS,
ANIMALS!

IF SOMETHING IS ALIVE IT HAS INTERESTS





BIOLOGICAL SELF-INTEREST

- 
- Derived from the existence and nature of the DNA that creates each individual being on Earth
 - Each living being's DNA is hardwired and structured in a particular way to facilitate survival and evolution/production of the next generation
 - Examples – fighting for continued life, sleeping, mating, finding and consuming food on a regular basis, etc.



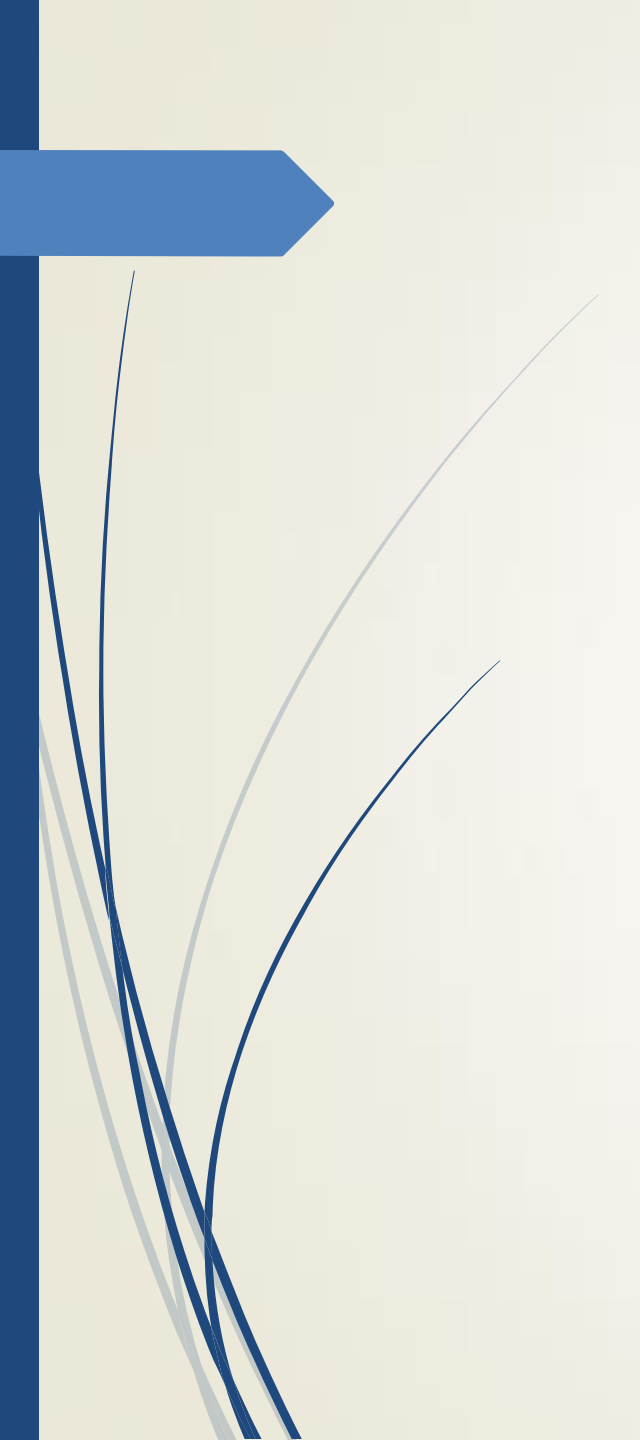
TYPES OF INTERESTS

HUMAN INTERESTS

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS





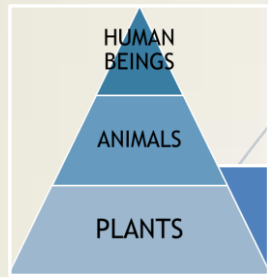
CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN HUMANS AND ANIMALS

ANIMAL IN A
ZOO

ANIMAL IN A
PRIVATE EXOTIC
COLLECTION

ANIMAL IN AN
INSTITUTIONAL
LAB

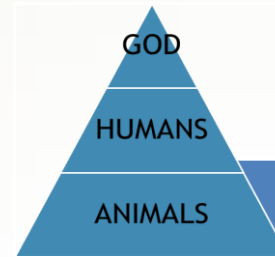
EARLY JURISPRUDENCE



ARISTOTLE

- Great Chain of Being

- Human Rectangular Soul – Reason and Rationality
- Animal Square Soul – Sensation and Movement
- Plant Triangular Soul – Nutrition and Growth



THOMAS AQUINAS

- Ultimate end of the universe is God, and only human beings are capable of gaining knowledge and understanding this end.
- All other beings that exist on this earth exist for the sake of human beings in order to facilitate them in achieving this final end of universe.

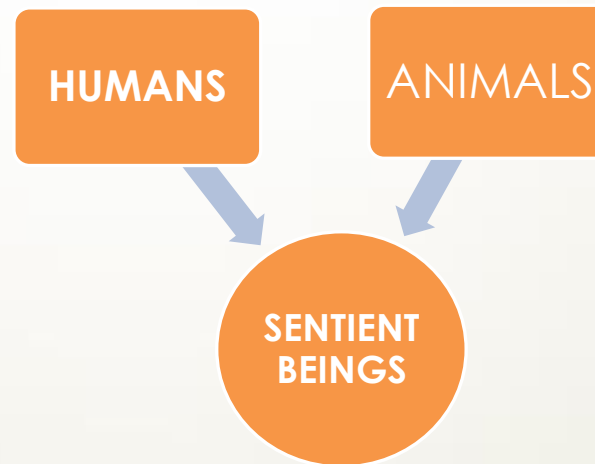


RENE DESCARTES

- Descartes associates animals with machines and believes that they have mere mechanical value.
- All animal behavior can be explained in purely mechanical terms without reference to inner consciousness or awareness.

BENTHAM'S UTILITARIANISM

- ▶ 'Greatest happiness of the greatest number' – this essentially sums up the entire philosophy on which utilitarianism rides.
- ▶ Sentience of a living being is relevant consideration, and keeping pain and pleasure as the defining factors there should not be any dichotomy between humans and non-human animals.
- ▶ Not rationality, but ability to suffer - If a being suffers, there can be no moral justification for refusing to take that suffering into consideration.
- ▶ Capacity of suffering is the prerequisite for having interests.



EQUAL CONSIDERATION OF INTERESTS

- ▶ Peter Singer
- ▶ Builds on Bentham's utilitarian philosophy to propose the logic of 'equal consideration of interests'.
- ▶ Every living being has an interest in happiness and in not suffering, hence to consider the interest of only humans and showing complete disregard to that of non-human animals is discriminatory.
- ▶ Nervous system and physiological responses in animals and humans are alike.
- ▶ Ability to feel pain is more primitive and is independent of language.
- ▶ Theory of 'Marginal Cases'
- ▶ Speciesism - It cannot simply be stated that the pain felt by one species deserves more importance than that felt by the other.
- ▶ To be non-speciesist would mean to give equal consideration if not equal status.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3-BX-jN_Ac



RIGHTS VIEW – ‘SUBJECT-OF-A-LIFE’ THEORY

- ▶ Tom Regan
- ▶ Animals do not have an indirect moral status or unequal status as compared to human beings but rather deserve the same moral status as humans.
- ▶ ‘Subject-of-a-life’ means more than merely being alive and more than merely being conscious – basis of inherent value.
- ▶ Regan demands complete abolition, dissolution and elimination of practices that utilize animals in any way whatsoever.

SUBJECT-OF-A-LIFE

