EXEMPLARY ANIMAL USE

"Animals were put here for use, or abuse. They are our absolute property. They probably don’t perceive pain as we do and even if they could it doesn’t matter."

- Groups advocating or conducting activities which are illegal (for the most part) in this country. Most of these were not prohibited in the past and may not now be so in other countries and cultures. Most involve the pain or death of animals just for the fun of the spectators.

- Dog fighting
- Cock fighting
- Live pigeon target shooting (legal in some states)
- Killing or injuring horses etc., for the misvius or TV

"Sports" which pit animals of some kind against another kind

Bread for contests. Eventual suffering of animal unimportant.

- Bread without regard to health or welfare of animals.
- Don’t care in what ways, or how traumatically living creatures are killed.

- Breaking present laws or rules.
- Substandard commercial dog breeding facility where dogs are kept and bred without regard for health, welfare, socialization or ultimate placement.

- "The end justifies the means. We have a right to have a fun and do whatever we want with and to animals even if it means breaking the rules or the law."

ANIMAL CONTROL AND REGULATORY AGENCIES

"We’re here to enforce the laws, ordinances, and regulations agreed to by our lawmakers. No more, no less. It’s not our fault people are irresponsible."

- Municipal and county animal control agencies, state and federal wildlife, livestock, disease control and other regulatory agencies. The USDA (enforcement agency for the federal Animal Welfare Act), state, regional and national animal control organizations and federations.

- Usually have trouble getting the existing regulations obeyed. In favor of more regulation, if feasible, and funds, provided for enforcement. Bred by pro- and anti-regulation individuals and pressure groups.

- Local animal control agencies may choose to adopt many or all of the principles used by animal welfare shelters and programs.

- May provide animals for research.

- Veterinarian organizations.

- More and more advocating or encouraging requiring spay/neuter.

- Required to destroy surplus animals.

- Work within the existing laws and systems to accomplish goals. Publicize and document animal abuses and needs to raise public and official consciousness to get changes made.

THE LINE BETWEEN ABUSE AND USE EXISTS IN THE MIND OF THE CLASSIFIER AS WELL AS WITHIN THE LEGALITIES AND RULES OF THE INDUSTRY OR SPORT.

RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL USE

"Animals are here for our use but we must be responsible about them. We should attempt to spare them pain and suffering, if possible."

- To insure minimal animal abuse and to be fair, all groups have rules by which their sports or hobbies are conducted. Some are regulated by law. The trend is for rules to become stringent with care for those people not abiding by them.

- Groups promoting:
  - Hunting
  - Trapping
  - Fishing
  - Boxing
  - Exotic animal keeping
  - Horse and dog sports
  - Various other kinds of animal events
  - Pure breeds of dogs, cats, horses, livestock, etc.

- Associations representing industries such as commercial pet breeders, laboratory animals, livestock producers, game farmers, circuses, zoos, horse and dog racing, etc. Wildlife "Conserv-so-can harvest" groups.

- At best, hobby and sport breeders breed carefully for heat genetic and health potential, e.g. socialize, choose responsible owners and will take back offspring if home doesn’t work out. At worst, breed just for glory or to support expensive hobby.

- Advoicate the killing or harvesting of animals, birds, fish, etc. for food or for use. Killing should be as swift and painless as possible.

- Less likely to want present laws increased or strengthened. May have fought any regulation at all. Insist they can "police their own houses."

- May believe the law is for "the other fellow." May include self-styled anti-cruelty investigators and abolitionists calling for their total ban. May blame or even hate animal control/animal welfare groups. Some would say pet animals have a right to bread. Most would require spay/neuter.

- Some people believe pets are not our property. They probably don’t care if we destroy the others, yet would agree with the values described. It is not possible to depict here the gradations of technical values within organizations.

- The space allocated to each category does not reflect either the number of organizations of each type or the number of people who would agree with the values described. It is not possible to depict here the gradations of technical values within organizations any more than it is to categorize one’s or another’s attitudes towards animals commonly regarded as being vermin, prey, dangerous, endangered, useful, loyal, cute, old, pet, etc.

Responsible animal use includes caring for animal welfare and represents the dominant western ethical view regarding proper human-animal relationships with animals. Animal control enforces laws that arise from these values.

The end does not justify the means. The very basis of our system of government is the premise that no matter what the issue, people can’t just take the law into their own hands. There are means available to redress wrongs and to initiate the change the rules, regulations and enforcement levels.

ANIMAL LIBERATION

"Animals should be freed to live as they please for our benefit in any way. We should try to eliminate all types of animal use as well as abuse."

- Groups openly calling for animal liberation. These may or may not fail that this can be accomplished only by a complete restructuring of society’s economic base and property rights. Some call themselves "activists" and may condone or encourage civil disobedience, illegal and sometimes violent "activity" tactics.

- Depending on each individual’s sensitivities and priorities, many do not hunt, or patronize entertainment or sports involving animals, and are willing to forgo fair, meat, eggs and milk products, leather, the results of medical research or production involving animals, e.g. vaccines, cosmetics, etc.

- May be required to work for the regulation of activities such as research, etc., and abolitionists calling for their total ban. May blame or even hate animal control/animal welfare groups for "compromising."

- Unwilling to sanction any taking of life. This may have ideological and/or empathetic origins.

- In order to save the animals involved and to bring their plight to the attention of the public, may advocate civil disobedience, confrontation, harassment, and the illegal removal of experimental, pound or other animals they consider to be suffering or likely to be destroyed.

- May believe the law is for "the other fellow." May include self-styled anti-cruelty investigations and cases without benefit of due process.

- Some won’t keep pets at all, considering it a form of enslavement.

By: KATHLEEN MORGAN as adapted by the National Animal Interest Alliance.