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0521567602 - Taking Animals Seriously: Mental Life and Moral Status - David DeGrazia

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What sort of minds do animals have? Do they have feelings, desires, or beliefs? Are they capable of self-awareness, language, or autonomy? Do animals have moral standing, and if so, how seriously should we take their interests when they conflict with human interests?

This book distinguishes itself from the sometimes polemical literature on these issues by offering the most judicious and balanced exploration yet available of animals' moral standing and of related questions concerning their minds and welfare. Transcending the overplayed debate between utilitarians and rights theorists, the book employs a fresh methodological approach in defending highly progressive conclusions regarding our treatment of animals. David DeGrazia provides the most thorough discussion yet of whether equal consideration should be extended to animals' interests, and he examines the issues of animal minds and animal welfare with an unparalleled combination of philosophical rigor and empirical documentation.

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Taking animals seriously

Mental life and moral status

DAVID DeGRAZIA

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© David DeGrazia 1996

First published 1996

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

DeGrazia, David.

Taking animals seriously : mental life and moral status / David
DeGrazia.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-56140-X (hc).—ISBN 0-521-56760-2 (pbk.)

1. Animal welfare—Moral and ethical aspects. 2. Animal
psychology. I. Title.

HV4708.D44 1996

179'.3—dc20

95-46689

CIP

A catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 0-521-56140-X hardback

ISBN 0-521-56760-2 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2001

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To the memory of David Hamovit

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Acknowledgments

In writing this book, I have incurred many debts. Most of the book was drafted during a two-semester leave of absence made possible by a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. I am very grateful to the ACLS. I am equally grateful to the College of Arts and Sciences, George Washington University, which granted me, in effect, an early sabbatical and provided crucial financial support (including a Junior Scholar Incentive Award). In a day when support for the humanities is in jeopardy and funding is increasingly politicized, it is heartening to me that these two institutions supported, without prejudice, a project in such a controversial area. I would also like to thank my wonderful colleagues in the Department of Philosophy and in the Program in Bioethics at G.W.U. Their decency and professionalism have made working life a pleasure since I arrived in 1989; they were also very supportive during my leave in the 1993–4 school year.

Many academic friends read drafts of chapters and provided valuable feedback, leading to innumerable revisions. Each of the following individuals read and commented on at least one chapter: Andy Altman, Tom Beauchamp, Marc Bekoff, Jeff Blustein, Steve Fleishman, Margaret Holmgren, Hugh LaFollette, Tom Mappes, Madison Powers, Tom Regan, Andrew Rowan, Steve Sapontzis, Wayne Sumner, and Gary Varner. Among those who commented on more than one chapter, Andy Altman deserves special thanks for reviewing four of them and, more importantly, for rekindling my spirits with encouragement on several occasions. Some of my embryonic attempts to work out problems in animal ethics profited from the comments of fellows and scholars at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University. In various stages of writing, I also benefitted from unpublished manuscripts by David Pears, John Searle, Wayne Sumner, and Gary Varner, who kindly permitted me to cite their works. I thank Andrew Rowan both for going over a number of scientific points about animal mentation with me and

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for letting me draw heavily from an article we coauthored, "Pain, Suffering, and Anxiety in Animals and Humans." Thanks are also due to Marty Stephens and other friends at the Humane Society of the United States for providing some useful literature about animals.

I am very grateful to Cambridge University Press for its interest in my manuscript and especially to Terence Moore for his professionalism and encouragement as editor. The manuscript was read by two anonymous reviewers. Both were very insightful; one went well beyond the call of duty in furnishing specific comments, including many helpful suggestions.

My philosophical reflections about animals considerably predate the present book. I wrote my dissertation on the same topic, so this is a good time to thank my committee: Ray Frey and Tom Regan, who generously served as outside readers, and Wayne Davis and Tom Beauchamp of Georgetown University. Tom Beauchamp was an especially helpful mentor and has given me valuable advice several times since my graduation.

Many other teachers are partly responsible for my pursuing a career in philosophy. I would especially like to thank Larry Thomas, who taught my first class in philosophy at the University of Maryland; Arthur Adkins, my bachelor's thesis advisor at the University of Chicago; Jim Griffin and David Pears, my teachers at Oxford; and Bob Veatch, who has been extraordinarily helpful and supportive since the day he told me about Georgetown's graduate school program.

Closer to home, I thank Liz and Lane, Chris, Belinda and Craig, Gus (who first encouraged me to study philosophy), Mom and Zelda, and Dad and Lora, for their love. I am also grateful for many friendships—several dating back to elementary school—which have nourished me all these years; this book is dedicated to one of those old friends. Finally, and most of all, I thank my wife, Kathleen, who renews my faith in humanity on a daily basis.