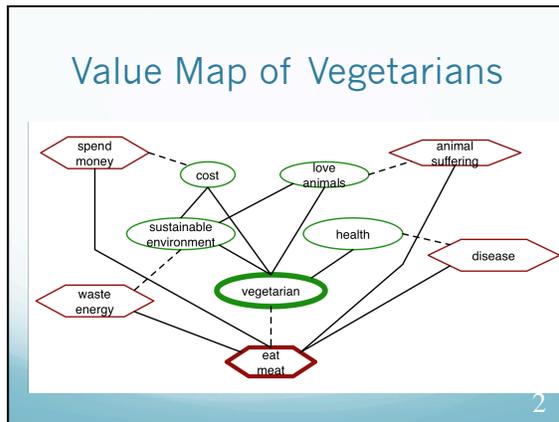


PHIL 224
Environmental Ethics, Week 3
 Paul Thagard

- Use of laptops (tablets, etc.) is discouraged, and limited to the last two rows.



1



Animal Rights?

Non-human animals lack characteristics that support the attribution of rights to a species:

1. language
2. complex beliefs and desires
3. needs of relatedness, autonomy, competence
4. sense of self (8 species only)

Extending rights to animals diminishes human rights.

Welfare of animals can be protected for other reasons: pain is bad.

Rights of trees, islands, planets?

3

Pitfalls of Animal Ethics

- Anthropomorphism: attributing to animals human characteristics.
- “Cuteism”: assigning moral value based on visual appeal.



4

Arguments about native hunting

- Why environmental ethics is especially important for aboriginal issues:
 1. Aboriginals are particularly vulnerable in our society.
 2. Many aboriginals live in fragile environments.
- Arguments against native hunting
 1. Non-human animals have rights to life.
 2. Non-human animals suffer if hunted.
- Arguments for native hunting
 1. Aboriginals have needs for food and subsistence.
 2. Aboriginals have rights to their traditional cultures.

5

Discussion Question

- Is hunting ethical? Is hunting by native people ethical?
- Please close laptops.

6

Cattle and Prairie Ecology

Arguments against raising cattle

1. Health disadvantages: cholesterol, antibiotics, hormones, E. coli contamination, etc.
2. Environmental disadvantages: water, manure, methane, etc.
3. Pain and suffering of cows.

Arguments for raising cattle

1. Nutritional value for humans
2. Pleasure of eating meat
3. Prairie ecology benefits: grazing is better than cultivation

7

Arguments for protecting endangered species

1. All species have a right to existence.
2. All species have intrinsic value.
3. Diverse species have health value for humans.
4. Diverse species have aesthetic value for humans.

8

Arguments against protecting endangered species

1. Extinction is natural: 99% of species have gone extinct.
2. Most species are of no foreseeable value to humans.
3. Legal protection of endangered species infringes human rights, e.g. property.

9

Discussion Question

- Evaluate the ethical reasons for protecting endangered species.
- Please close laptops.

10