


PHIL 226
Biomedical Ethics
Week 10

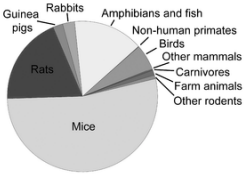
- Exercise Nov. 22.
- Exam Nov. 29.
- This week:
Euthanasia,
animals, children.
- No electronics



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Ethics and Animals

1. Non-human animals are similar to humans: molecular, neural, psychological, social.
2. So animals have selves.
3. So animals have rights, e.g. autonomy, equality, non-maleficence.
4. So it's wrong to use animals for human purposes such as experimentation and food.



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Discussion question

- Alfred is working for a biology professor who is doing experiments using rabbits to determine the mechanism of effectiveness for an arthritis drug.
- Should Alfred release the rabbits?

Having Children

Is China's one-child policy wrong?

Do people have a right to have children?

Is it moral for a parent to have sterilized an adult child with moderate mental retardation?

Is it immoral for a person with a severe genetic disease to have children?

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A Right to Have Children

Yes: Having children is central to being human, satisfying a vital need.

No: Having children is not a vital human need, and people can function as human beings without reproducing.

CMA: People have a right to take advantage of the opportunity to function in parental capacity, normally biologically, but this right is not absolute.

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Rights-based arguments against sterilization of people who are severely mentally handicapped.

Right to life, liberty, and security of the person would be violated.

Everyone has a right to have children.

Rights-based arguments for sterilization.

Proxy decision maker has the right to act in the best interests of the incompetent person.

Even if there is a right to have children, it does not apply to anyone incapable of looking after them.

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Consequences-based argument for sterilization.

Eve could not care for a child, so her mother and society would suffer. Pregnancy would be bad for Eve.

Consequences-based argument against sterilization.

An operation would be bad for Eve. Birth control options would be better.

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Immoral to Have Children?

Rights for: You have a right to have children.

Rights against: You have a duty not to make your children suffer.

Consequences against: Your child and others may suffer.

Consequences for: Your child may have a good life first. A cure may be found.

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