

# **Benessere animale e macellazione rituale. Tutela degli animali o rispetto per la concezione del bene animalista?**

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*Animal Welfare and Ritual Slaughter. Should we Protect Animals or Respect People's Commitment to Animal Welfare?*

*Abstract:* Most contemporary Western laws regarding the treatment of animals in livestock farming and slaughter are primarily concerned with the idea that animal suffering during slaughter should be minimized. In this paper, I offer a critical discussion of this principle – and, in particular, of the priority of the minimization of animal suffering over animals' right to life – in the light of the most important theories of animal ethics. I show that the main plausible theories of animal ethics (intrinsic value approach, relational theories, and utilitarianism) fail to ground the priority of the minimization of animal suffering over animals' right to life. Finally, I argue that this principle can be justified on the ground of respect for the human value commitment to animal welfare. The advantage of this perspective is its inclusiveness; it can justify without contradiction the admissibility of religious slaughter while promoting animals' general interest in not suffering.

*Keywords:* Animal welfare, Ritual slaughter, Exemption from the law, Pluralism.

*notizie di POLITEIA*, XXX, 114, 2014. ISSN 1128-2401 pp. 109-125.