

La soggettività animale tra filosofia e diritto

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Animal Subjectivity between Philosophy and Law: An Appraisal

Abstract: Philosophical thought has been skeptical about animal subjectivity for a long time. However, this idea has recently achieved wide acceptance, as well as the existence of animal rights. Both Aristoteles and Descartes viewed animals as “mindless beasts”: more recently problematic approaches such as the “ethics of sympathy” (Hume), and the “theory of utility” (Bentham) have been aiming at the greatest happiness possible for most people possible, extending the target to all animal beings. Lately, in the 20th century, theories of the “neoutilitarianism” (Singer) and the “theory of value” (Regan) have led to the statement of specific obligations of the human beings corresponding to subjective rights of animal beings. This book by Simone Pollo thoroughly reviews the aforementioned philosophical path. Furthermore, neurobiological achievements in the field of animal sensitivity are examined. In the final part of the book, the Author takes into account the topic of animal rights from a legal perspective. Law seems to be the most powerful tool when it comes to implementing equity principles in real life. It is the legislators’ responsibility to rule beyond the barrier of species in a comprehensive biocentric approach to the fundamental subjective rights.

Keywords: Animal rights, Animal subjectivity, Philosophy, Law, Ethics.

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