

Bernard Rollin e la sua etica per gli animali “a partire dal *telos*”

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Bernard Rollin and his Animal Ethics “Starting from the Concept of Telos”

Abstract: Much of contemporary animal ethics justifies its claims starting from two ethically relevant assumptions: the ability of animals to experience pain and pleasure, or their being subjects of a life. Alongside these established perspectives, Bernard Rollin (1943-2021) has developed an alternative approach, starting from the premises that, on the one hand, pain and pleasure do not exhaust the spectrum of an animal’s possible interests, and that, on the other hand, it is possible to reconcile certain uses of animals as “means” with respect for their intrinsic value. Leaning on the philosophy of Aristotle, Rollin developed his animal ethics from the concept of *telos*, understanding it as the set of interests constitutive of the nature of a given animal. In this way, according to Rollin, the standard to aim for in our relations with animals is respect for their *telos* – which may be more important to an animal than avoiding pain or seeking pleasure. This contribution explores Rollin’s ethical perspective, focusing on the concept of *telos* and highlighting its differences with the two “orthodox” approaches to animal ethics, the one based on utilitarianism and the one based instead on animal rights understood as in the Regan’s theory.

Keywords: Animal ethics, Animal rights, Animal welfare, Bernard Rollin, Telos.

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