



Animal Welfare - History, Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

What is the WVMA?

- Established in 1914, Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association is a professional association for veterinarians, maintained by veterinarians.
- Food animal, equine, small animal, academic, laboratory, industry, regulatory and specialists are represented within the WVMA membership.



Animal Welfare

Animal Rights vs. Animal Welfare

- Rights – can be defined as the belief that humans do not have the right to use animals for their own gain
- Welfare – advocates the humane use of animals which involved maintaining well-being and prohibiting unnecessary cruelty

Animal Welfare

History

- Ancient Athens

Supreme court condemned a boy to death for picking out the eyes of quails

- Multiple laws in the Old Testament

- 13th – 18th Century

Early Prohibitions to bear-baiting, bull-baiting, cock-fighting, hunting, etc...



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Early Legislation Against Cruelty to Animals

Thomas Wentworth's Act of 1635

Massachusetts Colony Body of Liberties in
1641



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Quotes

- 1838 - William Hamilton Drummond was quoted as saying "animals are as delicately constituted and as sensible to pain as themselves – that all of them, as well as man, have their rights, which it is both unjust and cruel to violate or infringe.
- 1896 - Wilfrid Lescher was quoted as saying "In English law animals have legal rights corresponding to a reality embraced by every sound mind. They have rights – therefore – animal rights.
- 1888 - Frances Power Cobbe when talking of illustrations of vivisection "Do not refuse to look at these pictures. If you cannot bear to look at them, what must the suffering be to the animals who undergo the cruelties they represent?"



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Legal writer:

Jeremy Bentham, late 1700s/early 1800s

“The question is not, can they reason? Nor,
Can they talk? But can they suffer.”



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Martin's Act – 1822

Bill to prevent the cruel and improper treatment
of

- Horse, mare, gelding, mule, ass, ox, cow, heifer, steer, sheep or other cattle
- Martin's Act – modern era of anti-cruelty legislation is traced back to this Act

Animal Welfare

Organizations formed in 19th Century

- 1824 SPCA in England
- 1866 ASPCA in the U.S.

Animal Welfare

United States Acts

- Animal Welfare Act - 1966
- Humane Methods of Slaughter Act -1958

Animal Welfare

Turning Point in Movement

- Publication of Peter Singer's book Animal Liberation in 1975.
- From that point on, animal rights groups have proliferated around the globe



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1980s - birth of many national animal rights organizations

- PETA
- FARM
- IDA
- AFL
- EarthSave
- Farm Sanctuary



Animal Welfare

National Statistics on Animal Bills

2006

- 1,700 bills tracked

2009

- 5,000 bills tracked



Animal Welfare

Wisconsin Statistics

2005-2006

- 9 bills related to animals

2009-2010

- 36 bills related to animals



Animal Welfare

Legal profession

2000

- 9 schools with animal law courses

Today

- 100 school with animal law courses



Animal Welfare

Why is this?

- Americans have never been more physically and mentally separated from the farm and rural life
- Farmers are physically and mentally separated from those to whom they supply their products
- Spending on pets increased dramatically

Animal Welfare

Total US Pet Industry Expenditures

Year	Billion \$
2010	47.7 est.
2009	45.5
2008	43.2
2007	41.2
2006	38.5
2005	36.3
2004	34.4
2003	32.4
2002	29.5
2001	28.5
1998	23
1996	21

**Source: American Pet Products Assn



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Philanthropic Sector

- 2005 Americans gave \$260 billion – all time high
 - \$3.4 billion was donated to animal related causes

*Source: Jo Sullivan, personal communication, June 13, 2008

Animal Welfare

Media & Communications

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Blogs
- Electronic communication
- More traditional means of TV, print, radio
- Leverage press coverage



Animal Welfare

Around the World – Current Stories

- **China**

- Consuming dogs
- Tigers

- **Switzerland**

- vote for animals to be defended by lawyers

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Observations

- **Rights advocates**
 - remove nonhuman property classifications
- **Rights philosophers**
 - change the way we as humans, perceive animals

Animal Welfare

Opposition to increased protection

- Fear of harm to people
- Fear of unknown
- Medicine
- Entertainment
- Food
- Apparel
- Jobs



Animal Welfare

Conclusion

- Urban population and farmers need each other
- Unfamiliarity and communications is a two-way street