**Animal Rights vs**

**The Case for Ethical Use of Animals and Their By-Products**

For the purpose of this assignment, we will keep our focus on domesticated animals (livestock: Cattle, Chickens, Swine, and pets used in lab experiments: dogs, cats, rabbits, rats) and leave discussion of wildlife or plants for another time.

It’s easy to find information on the mistreatment of animals and the ethical case against exploiting them for our food needs or in animal experimentation. It’s a bit harder to find information of why it’s “good” to use animals, but here are some sites to get you going:

<http://www.ecoagriculture.org/documents/files/doc_340.pdf>

<http://www.sustainabletable.org/1383/heritage-animal-breeds-and-heirloom-crop-varieties>

The case FOR using animals boils down to, “We only preserve animals and specific breeds of those animals if we have a use for them (or think they’re cute)”.

The case AGAINST using animals as livestock or in experiments is, basically, “Do unto others as you’d have done unto you”. The view is that animals are to be treated with the same respect as humans simply because they are sentient creatures.

Today, you will look into BOTH sides of the issue.

**Tasks:**

Animal Experimentation

* What animals are commonly used in animal experimentation?
* In what types of experiments/ for what industries do we use animals? What types of experiments, specifically, are performed upon them?
* Under what conditions do lab animals live? Describe their life.
* What is the logical/ethical case FOR animal experimentation?
* What is the logical/ethical case AGAINST continuing to use animals?
* Based on the evidence, what is your opinion at this time?

Livestock (pigs, cows, chickens), Pets (dogs/cats), and Heritage Breeds

* For what purposes do we breed and use livestock?
* What is meant by “heritage breed”?
* How many breeds are commonly used in commercial production?
* How many formerly common breeds are rare, endangered, or extinct?
* Under what conditions do livestock live?
* What about sick/injured animals? How are they treated? Do they make it into the food supply?
* What impact does commercial food have on US?
* If we all became vegan, would livestock become extinct?
* What is the importance of Biodiversity?