

The Ethics of Animal Research

Student Activity – Identifying Your Views

The following activity will help you identify some of your own ethical views about animals. There are no right or wrong answers but avoid double standards. Double standards can involve saying you are against all killing of animals but you eat meat or saying that you are against all animal testing but are vaccinated against tetanus. Answer the questions honestly and individually then join your group for discussion.

Question 1: Circle the animal which you would prefer to kill and eat:

- A. A worm
- B. A sheep
- C. A cat
- D. A lizard

Give reasons for your choice:

Question 2: Circle the animal you would prefer to dissect:

- A. An oyster
- B. A fish
- C. A seal
- D. A penguin

Give reasons for your choice:

Question 3: Place a cross on the line below to show where your values lie between the two extremes:

- A. Humans should not hurt or kill any living thing, not even disease carrying bacteria
- B. Humans should be allowed to do anything they like to any living creature

A.-----B.

Explain why you placed the cross where you did:

Question 4: Place a cross on the line below to show where your values lie between the two extremes:

- A. Humans should not hunt any animal for any reason, including sport, research, education or pest control
- B. Humans should be allowed to hunt any animal, any time

A.-----B.

Explain why you placed the cross where you did:

Question 5: Circle the options with which you agree (Circle as many as you like).

It's alright to fish when:

- A. It is for sport and all fish are killed
- B. It is for research/education and all fish are killed
- C. It is for sport and all fish are tagged and released
- D. It is for research/education and all fish are tagged and released
- E. Fishing is not acceptable for any reason

Explain your answers:

Question 6: Circle the options with which you agree (Circle as many as you like).

It is alright to use animals in experiments when:

- A. The animal is an invertebrate
- B. The experiment is for the development of new medicines
- C. The animal suffers but the results will benefit its species
- D. Only when there is no other option and the number of animals are kept to a minimum
- E. The experiment is for the development of new cosmetics
- F. The experiment only causes the animal psychological rather than physical distress
- G. Using animals in experiments can never be justified

Explain your answers:
