

# Table of Contents

---

Acknowledgements.....	ix
Preface.....	xi
Chapter 1. Introduction.....	1
The Scope of the Problem.....	1
The Thesis in Brief.....	2
The Assumption.....	3
The Varying Perspectives on Animals.....	3
Social Justice and Animal Rights.....	4
Chapter 2. Western Social and Political Theory.....	7
The Constitutional Democracy.....	7
Justice.....	8
Rights.....	13
The Social Justice Movement in a Constitutional Democracy.....	19
Chapter 3. Sentience.....	21
Introduction.....	21
The Science of Sentience.....	23
Who Meets the Basic Criteria for Sentience?.....	27
Chapter 4. Basic Rights for All Sentient Beings.....	29
Introduction to a Theory of Justice for Sentient Animals.....	29
Membership in the Moral Community.....	30

	The Alien Thought Experiment.....	33
Chapter 5.	Counter Criteria to Sentience.....	35
	Introduction.....	35
	Species Membership .....	35
	Qualities Supposedly Unique to Humans and the Similar Minds Theory .....	36
	Summary.....	46
Chapter 6.	Welfarism.....	47
	Introduction.....	47
	Welfarism.....	47
Chapter 7.	The Property Status of Sentient Animals .....	51
	The Preclusion of Basic Rights.....	51
Chapter 8.	Yeah, But... ..	55
	But it is “natural” and “traditional” to use animals and that’s how it has always been. ....	56
	Hey, it’s not our fault we are the top of the food chain. We are predators, and they are prey, and that’s just the circle of life.....	56
	But animals eat other animals and even humans sometimes, so is that not immoral? How can they have rights if they don’t respect the rights of others?.....	57
	Why should I bother? It sounds difficult and expensive to adopt veganism. I love hamburgers, and I don’t want to be one of those preachy vegans anyway. Why bother? .....	57
	Don’t we displace and even kill animals when we plant and harvest crops? I heard vegans kill more animals in their farming than meat-eaters. And some	

animals need us to use them, like sheep that need their coats cut, for instance .....	58
What about all the domesticated animals out there like cows and dogs? What would we need to do about that, and does this mean I can't have pets? That's obviously unacceptable. Now you've gone too far! .....	59
What about experimentation and product testing? Certainly, that is something we truly need, right? .....	60
Chapter 9. Advocacy.....	63
Introduction.....	63
Abolitionist versus Animal Protectionist .....	64
Direct Action .....	68
Summary.....	70
Chapter 10. Summary and Conclusion .....	71
Epilogue.....	75
The World with Sentient-Being Rights.....	75
Resources .....	77
Bibliography.....	79
Index.....	83