

Assent and the Possibility of Interspecies Justice

We have argued that animals sometimes have rights to self-determination: rights that their will be recognised as normatively authoritative within certain domains of action. We further argued that an animal assents to an activity or interaction when they wilfully affirm it. When this is so, their assent can enable permissible interactions consistent with their rights to self-determination. It was our (ambitious) contention that this account of assent “makes the project of interspecies justice possible” and “paves the way for the realisation of just interspecies relations.” In this talk, we examine and problematize the transformative potential of our account. We will argue that though assent can make some interpersonal human-nonhuman interactions permissible, it cannot legitimise the general practice of keeping animals as companions or the use of animal labour to satisfy human ends.



CAMBRIDGE CENTRE FOR
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Angie Pepper is a Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Roehampton. Angie is interested in what we owe to non-human animals as a matter of interspecies justice and has written on a wide range of topics including climate change, global justice, zoos, privacy for animals, political agency in humans and animals, the importance of nonhuman animal self-determination, and animal rights and multiculturalism.

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