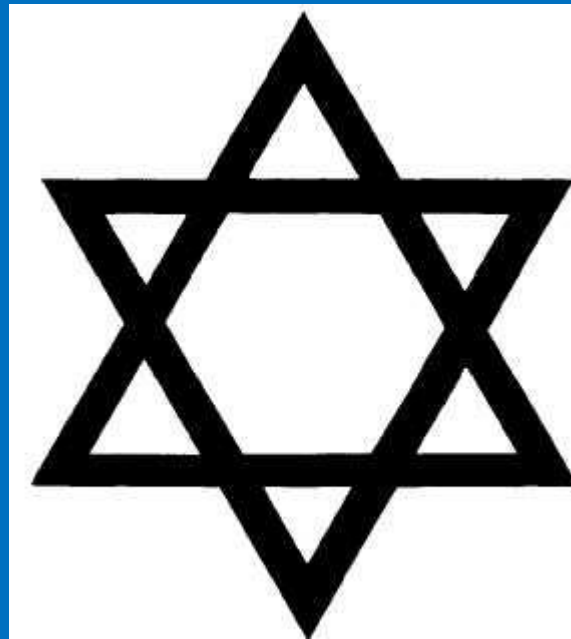


Judaism & Animal Rights



Jewish Texts

- **Tanakh (Hebrew Bible/written law)**
 - **Torah (Genesis to Deuteronomy)**
 - **Nevi'im (Joshua to Malachi)**
 - **Ketuvim (Psalms to II Chronicles)**

- **Talmud (Oral Law)**
 - **Mishnah**
 - **Gemara**
 - Jerusalem & Babylonian
 - Halakhic & Aggadic

Tza'ar ba'alei chayim

- **Jewish principle**
- **Summation of all the all the laws concerning animals**
- **Coined by rabbis**
- **Teachings/laws on how to avoid the infliction of any unnecessary pain to the animal**
- **OR the obligation not to cause pain to animals**

Justice for Animals

- **Divine**
 - **Animals are part of G-d's divine plan**
 - **Ex. Creation, Moses and the burning bush, Eliezer and Rebecca**
- **Human**
 - **Help humans be more humane**
 - **A way to show love and kindness**

Cohn-Sherbok- Genesis Creation Story

- 1. G-d created and blessed all things**
- 2. The world belongs to all beings**
- 3. Animals & humans are to have a relationship**
- 4. Humans are to take of animals**
- 5. Creation is to live in peace**

Rabbi Elijah Schochet

- **Animals are included in the covenant**
 - **Ex. Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Jonah, Samuel and Hosiah**
 - **Covenant includes:**
 - **Responsibility, legal position, divine position**
 - **Share in blessing and judgement of G-d**

Be Kind to Animals

- **Righteous Person**
 - Ex. Noah and Joseph**
- **Good leader**
 - Ex. Moses and King David**

Jewish Thoughts on Eating Meat

- **G-d commands humans to have a vegetarian diet**
- **After the flood, G-d allowed highly regulated slaughtering**
- **Desire to eat meat = Lust**
- **Kosher laws = teach us reverence for life and refine our appetites**

Kashrut/Kosher Laws

- **Def. Jewish law on what foods can and cannot be eaten and how they must be prepared and eaten**
- **Why Kosher? Because the Torah Says So**
- **Based on the Torah (Leviticus/Deuteronomy)**
- **Elaborated in the Mishnah & other rabbinic literature**

Schechita – Proper Slaughter

- 1. No delay or interruption**
- 2. Knife drawn gently across the neck**
- 3. Drawn not stabbed**
- 4. Drawn from trachea to the top of the lung**
- 5. Trachea or esophagus cannot be torn or removed**

Modern Day Slaughtering

- **Not abiding by kosher laws**
 - **Slaughterers are not properly qualified**
 - **Use machines instead of knives**
 - **5% - 30% of animals are conscious for up to 30 sec.**
 - **Some remove the tracheas and esophagi**
 - **Raised in abusive factory farms/horrid transportation conditions**

Thoughts/Solutions

- **Jews in Diaspora didn't eat meat**
- **Today, no way to eat animals without it being part of cruelty**
- **Vegetarianism/Veganism = next kashrut**
- **Those who eat meat have an ethical responsibility**

How do we approach the issue?

- **Shouldn't be an animal right against Jewish community**
- **Because of history/ambiguity of texts**
 - **Ex. Man = image of god, Man is dominant, unsure why legal can eat meat**
 - **Should be approach not as animal rights but "creation rights"**

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