



## PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS, PEOPLE FOR PETA

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo  
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas  
B.S. Medical Technology

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA, was established to uphold the rights of animals. Animals have rights too, simply because they are also creatures of a Higher Power. Being part of all creation, animals deserve to enjoy rights, maybe not as many as their human counterparts, but still privileged to enjoy them just the same. In the story of Creation, after all, animals were also given their fair amount of exposure just like Adam and Eve. And elsewhere in the Holy Bible, animals were an integral part woven into the many biblical stories we have read and enjoyed.

According to PETA's online website (<http://www.peta.org/>), animals are not ours, in more ways than one.

To quote:

Animals are not ours to eat.  
Animals are not ours to wear.  
Animals are not ours to experiment on.  
Animals are not ours to use for entertainment.  
Animals are not ours to abuse in any way.

Since time immemorial, animals have been eaten, slaughtered, poked fun at, used for experimentation purposes, and used for mocking other people. Crocodiles and snakes flourish in politics. Fur was not only worn by Cruella de Ville, but has always been an integral part of the wardrobe of certified, super-rich fashionistas. Who doesn't own at least one bag made from animal skin, or one leather shoe, purse or pair of gloves, for that matter? Roosters and dogs are pitted in cockfights and dogfights. Dog races have been a form of entertainment in certain, advanced countries. Mice have been used for inoculations, while monkeys have been sent up in space. People fear of diseases such as mad cow disease, the avian flu, and foot-and-mouth disease because they directly affect the world's greatest sources of food: cows; chickens ; and pigs. Or beef, chicken and pork, to be more exact. Alas, I myself can not imagine a day without at least one dish of any of these three.

I think it was from a certain movie where I heard a vegetarian character justify her going the healthy way thus: she never eats anything with a face. My goodness, I quickly checked myself: Do fish qualify as having faces, too? What will there be left to eat without the mooers, oinkers, and bok-bok-bokers on the dining table?

Certain religions prohibit partaking of certain food and foodstuff made from specific animals, for reasons of their own. Ours it is not to mock those beliefs, but ours it is to respect them. PETA or not, those beliefs are meant for their followers to be guided accordingly, and those who subscribe to other religious beliefs have no right to question what others uphold.

Yes, it still is an animal world after all. Besides, imagine what a healthier world it would be if we all went vegan, or vegetarian. Perhaps, the only drawback is when animals outrun us humans in their number.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In your opinion, what has probably brought about the deadliest diseases in the world?
2. Research on some other ways by which animals have been mistreated all over the planet. Share your findings in class.
3. Do you or someone you know have a pet? Why did you or that person choose that pet?
4. If you could come back as an animal later in life, which animal would you be and why?
5. Do animals really have rights? Why should animal rights be respected also?