

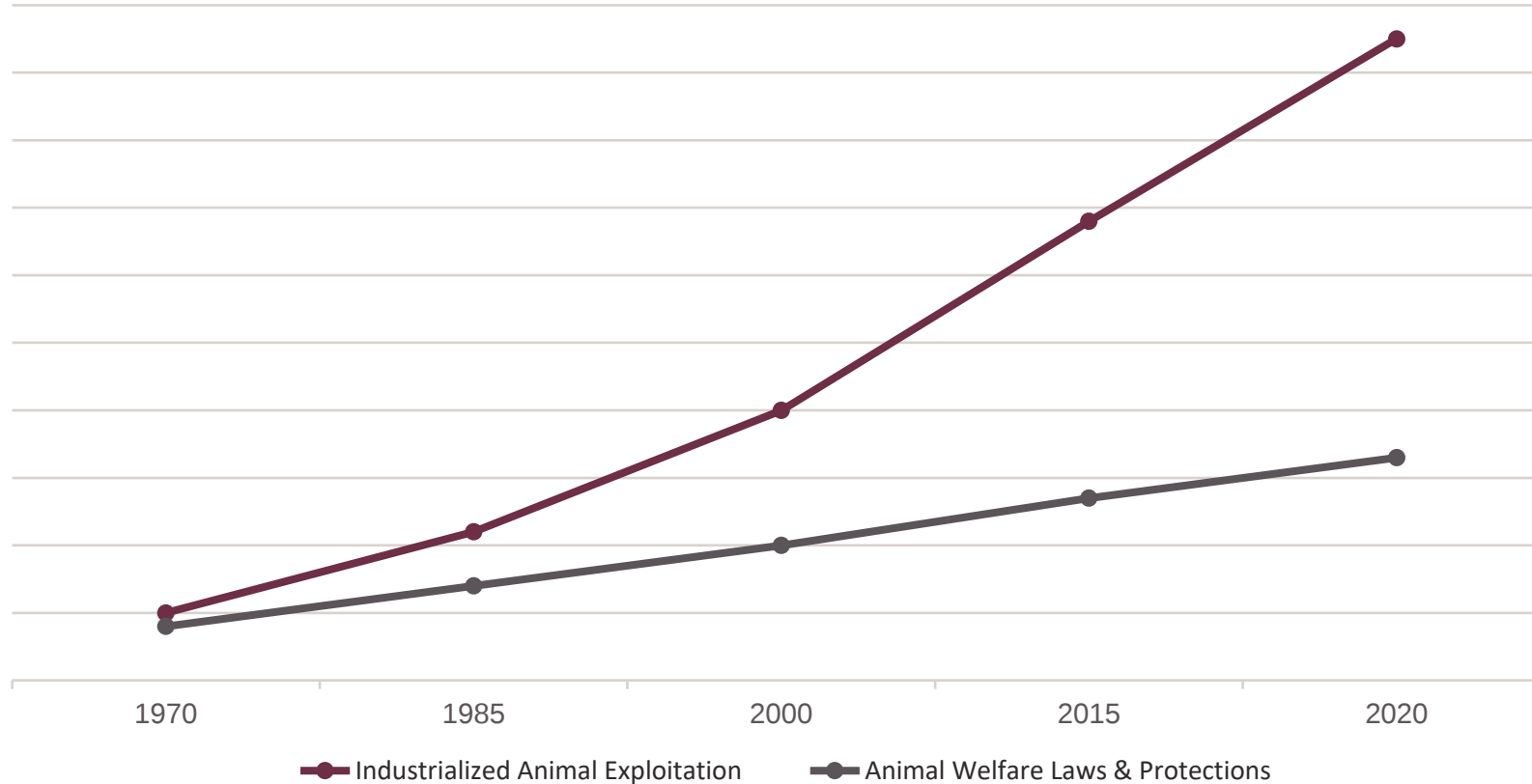
GLOBAL ANIMAL LAW

A View from the Margins

Moving beyond rights and welfare toward a second wave of animal ethics

Based on the research of Iyan Offor, University of Strathclyde

The Paradox of Modern Animal Protection



The Question

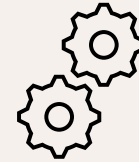
Why is our current legal framework failing to prevent mass harm, even as protections continue to expand?

The Historical Roots of Exclusion



Aristotle's Great Chain of Being

- Established a hierarchical worldview
- Humans at the top, justifying dominion
- Based on perceived rationality



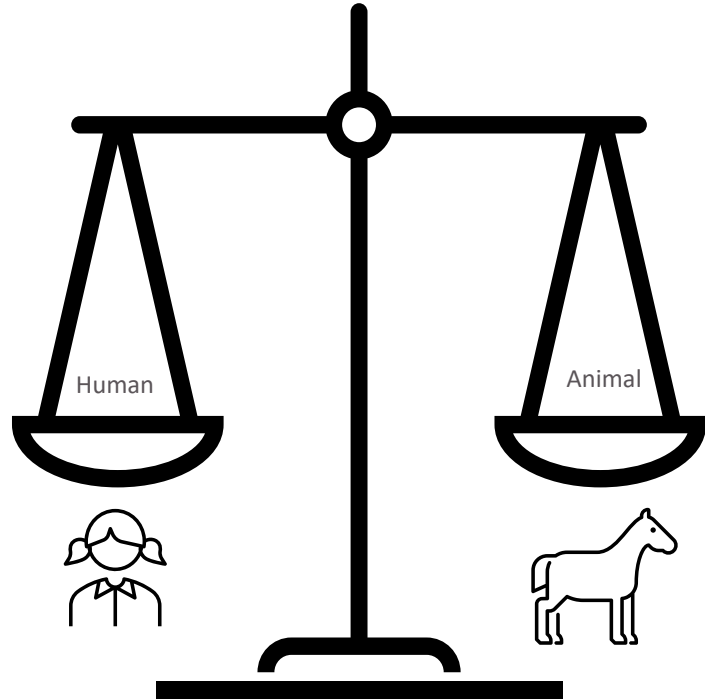
Descartes' Automata

- Animals framed as unfeeling machines
- Void of consciousness, emotion, or moral standing

Western legal and ethical praxis was built on a foundation of: **Human exceptionalism • Absolute difference**

The First Wave Revolution

1970s – Singer, Regan, Francione

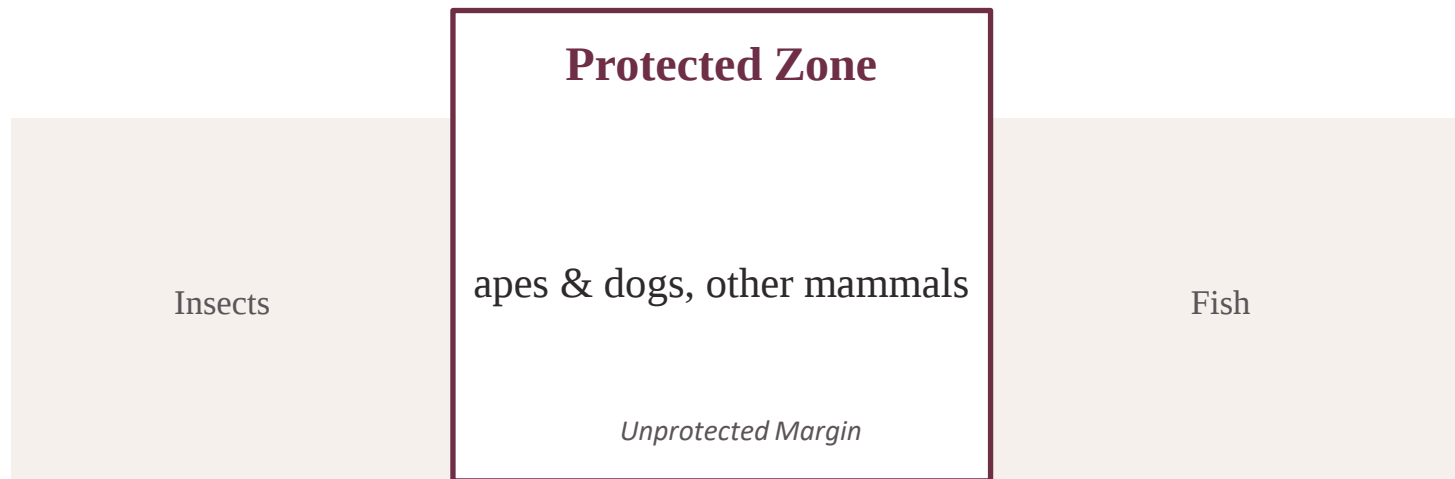


The Similarity Argument

The Premise: Our current legal system dictates that animals deserve moral and legal consideration only because they are similar to humans.

The Legal Criteria: Sentience, cognitive ability, self-consciousness.

Problem 1: The Similarity Trap



The Flaw

Why must an animal be like a human to be protected from a human?

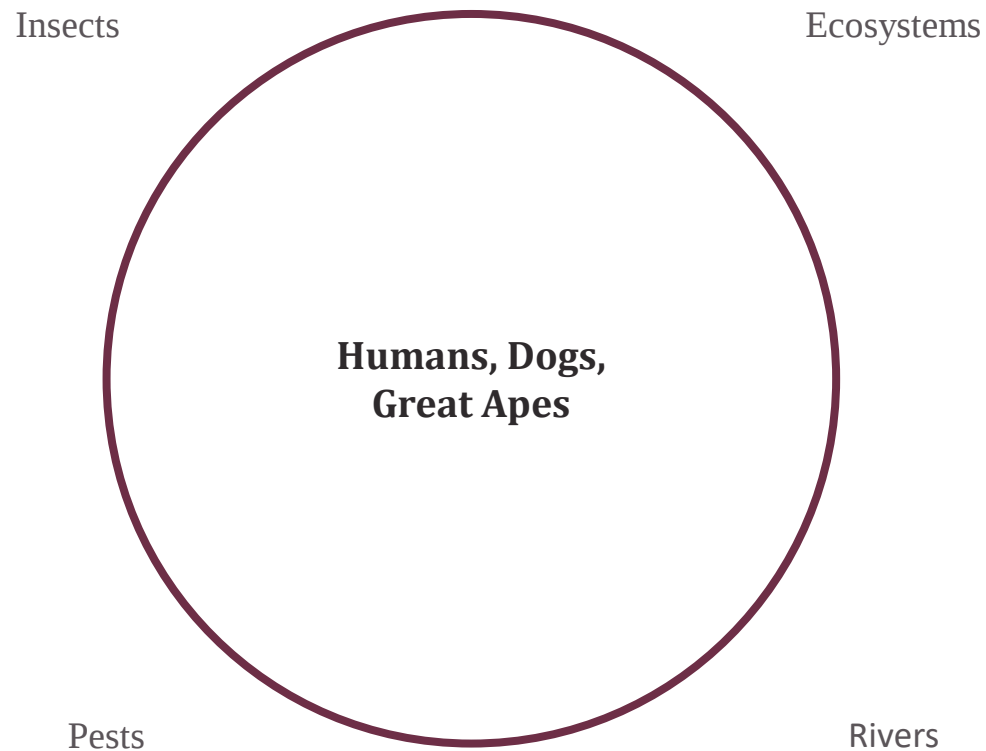
The Consequence

We protect highly cognitive animals but abandon those deemed lesser, non-sentient, or marginal.

The Reality

It forces marginalized species to meet an enforced, anthropocentric standard just to survive.

Problem 2: The Circle of Moral Concern



The Flaw

First Wave ethics focuses purely on expanding a rigid boundary of concern.

The Consequence

It creates an inside/outside dualism, protecting those inside while saying nothing about those left outside.

The Reality

Boundary-drawing inevitably leads to the exclusion, othering, and oppression of anyone outside the line.

Problems 3 & 4: Individualism & Western Imposition

Liberal Individualism

Concept

Based on individual rights and property status.

Critique

- Ignores the profound interconnectedness of species
- Fails to balance individual animal rights with broader ecosystem protection

Ethnocentric Universalization

Concept

A one-size-fits-all approach to ethical rules (e.g., universal veganism).

Critique

- Western frameworks are imposed globally
- Ignores indigenous cultures (like Inuit communities), local contexts, and varied geographical dependencies on animals

The Paradigm Shift: Second Wave Animal Ethics

Feminist Care Ethics

Prioritizing responsibility, emotional intelligence, and contextual care over rigid, abstract rules.

Posthumanism

Reintegrating humanity back into nature; completely rejecting human exceptionalism and recognizing multispecies sociality.

Earth Jurisprudence

Recognizing the boundless interconnectedness of all living beings and ecosystems, rather than isolated individuals.

A View From the Margins: Fixing the Framework



Celebrate Difference

(Fixes the Similarity Trap)

Stop demanding human-like traits. Protect animals based on their right to flourish as the unique kind of beings they actually are.



Boundless Consideration

(Fixes the Moral Circle)

Erase the boundary. Embrace an open, other-facing ethic that requires ongoing ethical consideration for all entities — sentient and non-sentient.



Interconnected Care

(Fixes Individualism)

Move beyond isolated individual rights to acknowledge the intricate web of multispecies sociality and environmental interdependence.



Contextual Justice

(Fixes Ethnocentrism)

Reject one-size-fits-all Western universalism. Engage directly with local, indigenous, and marginalized communities to build responsive local laws.

Structural Comparison: First vs. Second Wave

	First Wave (Status Quo)	Second Wave (The Future)
Basis for Protection	Similarity to humans (Sentience/Rationality)	Their own unique capacity to flourish
Boundary of Concern	A closed, rigid moral circle	Boundless, ongoing, open consideration
Underlying Framework	Liberal rights & utilitarianism	Feminist care ethics & interconnectedness
Global Application	Universal, acontextual, and ethnocentric	Contextual, local, and intersectional

Conclusion: Why the Second Wave is Essential

1

It is Radically Inclusive

It does not leave marginal animals, less-cognitive species, or non-sentient nature behind to be exploited.

2

It is Emotionally Realistic

It validates emotion, empathy, and actual human-animal interconnectedness rather than relying on cold, abstract logic.

3

It is Globally Justified

It respects cultural contexts and indigenous practices rather than imposing an imperialistic, Western legal standard on the rest of the world.

Questions?

Thank you for your attention.