

Reading Questions for March 13

These questions cover an article by James Rachels called *The Basic Argument for Vegetarianism*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to do the reading more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

This week, we're focused on animal rights. We'll look at animal rights in three contexts: eating animals, experimenting on animals, and keeping animals as pets. Today's class is on eating animals; we'll be looking at an article by James Rachels in which he defends vegetarianism.

*Questions:*

1. On pages 70-1, Rachels gives an argument he calls the basic argument. Reconstruct the argument.
2. On page 71-3, Rachels tries to support his argument by illustrating the pain some animals go through. Which part of his argument is he trying to support. Is his attempt successful?
3. Starting on page 75 with the paragraph beginning "I believe", Rachels explains why some people have resisted his conclusion. Why have they resisted it? What does Rachels have to say in response? Is his response successful?