

Reading Questions for March 15

These questions cover a book chapter by Lori Gruen called “Experimenting with Animals” from a book called *Ethics and Animals*. 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’re looking at animal rights in three contexts: eating animals, experimenting on animals, and keeping animals as pets. Today’s class is on experimenting on animals; we’ll be looking at an article by Lori Gruen in which she discusses arguments related to experimenting on animals. *I should note that on pages 105-17, Gruen runs through the history of animal experimentation up to the present day. In the interests of not assigning too much reading, I am not making you read these pages, but I’d still encourage you to look at them if you’re curious, as I found them pretty interesting.*

*Questions:*

1. On pages 118-24, Gruen runs through the “non-speciesist utilitarian test” plus two objections to the first part – the “incommensurability objection” and the “epistemic objection”. What is the test? What is the incommensurability objection and what are the responses to it? What is the epistemic objection? Overall what do you think about the first part of the test and why?
2. On pages 124-6, Gruen discusses part two of the test. What does she say about it? What do you think about it and why?
3. On pages 126-9, Gruen discusses the abolitionist’s view. What is that view? Is it plausible? Why?