

Evidence from multiple scientific studies has helped us to understand that a wide range of animals are sentient beings. This means **they have the capacity to experience positive and negative feelings such as pleasure, joy, pain and distress that matter to the individual.**

<https://science.rspca.org.uk> › sciencegroup › sentience

The more we learn about the minds of animals, the harder it is to justify the practices we use that cause them to suffer. It is also harder to neglect that animals can and want to feel positive emotions and states too. They, like us, want to feel good.

They want to do things they enjoy; they want to exert control over their own lives, have choices, play, feel satiated and comfortable, solve problems, get excited, and seek the comfort of companions.

These things matter to animals, and they matter to us.

Understanding how animals can suffer and what emotions they experience is instrumental in improving their welfare and the legislation and practices affecting them. Policies and laws must consider animals as individuals, whose needs and welfare need to be protected.

Recognising animals as sentient in legislation demonstrates that a country values the intrinsic value and wellbeing of animals. It defines animals as feeling beings, who are capable of pain and suffering, but also of positive states such as pleasure and joy.

This sets an important standard for how animals should be treated, shapes attitudes and behaviours and sends a clear message to citizens. Enshrining sentience in legislation takes a country one step closer to ensuring that animals have the lives they deserve.

<https://www.worldanimalprotection.org/our-work/animal-sentience>

Dear Reader,

It is a sad state of affairs for the planet that in the modern age, when science has proven to us the true intrinsic value of animals, we neglect our duties as human caretakers. I believe that future generations will look back to our history of animal treatment thus far and equate our behaviour with those who once supported human slavery.

Since animals have been proven sentient and therefore a sentient being should be afforded rights, our current treatment of animals for food and sport means that abuses are being permitted to be perpetrated against sentient beings.

Therefore, the live export of animals is the equivalent of the live export of human beings, which, because of our enlightenment, we now acknowledge to be a crime.

We can no longer neglect our responsibilities in this issue, please ban the live export of animals.

Thank you,

