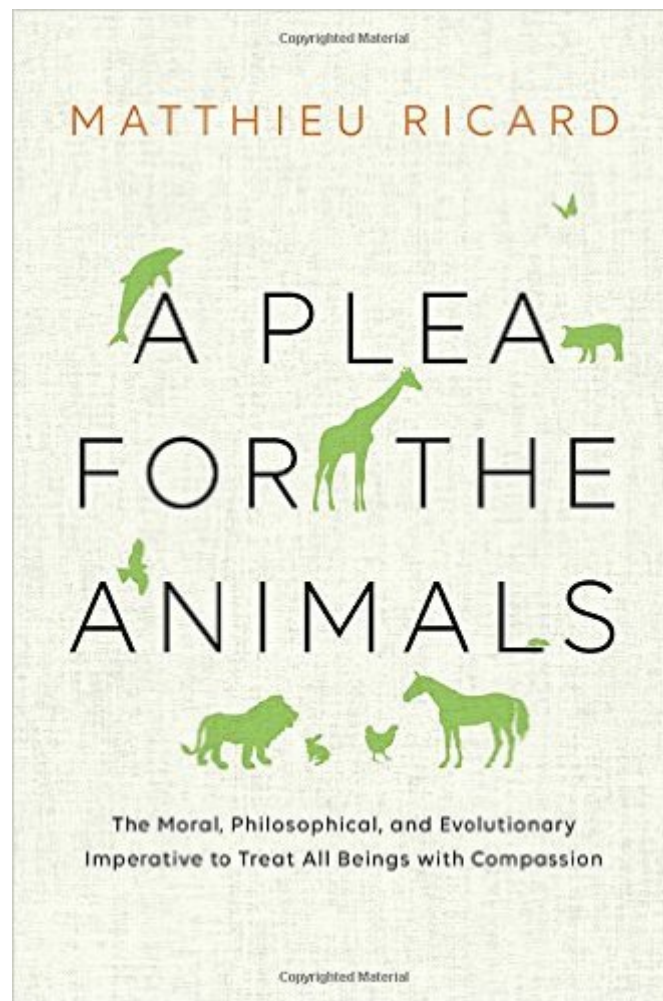


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# A Plea For The Animals: The Moral, Philosophical, And Evolutionary Imperative To Treat All Beings With Compassion



## Synopsis

A powerful and wide-ranging indictment of the treatment of animals by humans--and an eloquent plea for animal rights. Every cow just wants to be happy. Every chicken just wants to be free. Every bear, dog, or mouse experiences sorrow and feels pain as intensely as any of us humans do. In a compelling appeal to reason and human kindness, Matthieu Ricard here takes the arguments from his best-sellers *Altruism* and *Happiness* to their logical conclusion: that compassion toward all beings, including our fellow animals, is a moral obligation and the direction toward which any enlightened society must aspire. He chronicles the appalling sufferings of the animals we eat, wear, and use for adornment or entertainment, and submits every traditional justification for their exploitation to scientific evidence and moral scrutiny. What arises is an unambiguous and powerful ethical imperative for treating all of the animals with whom we share this planet with respect and compassion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author of this "A Plea for the Animals" book, Matthieu Ricard, is a Frenchman with an interesting pedigree. His father was the famous French philosopher Jean-Francois Revel, and his mother was a Tibetan Buddhist nun. So perhaps it was not too surprising that Ricard focused on Tibetan Buddhism after earning a Ph.D. degree in molecular genetics, and he became a Buddhist monk who now lives in Nepal. As with many topics that involve belief systems, the topic of animal rights can take on many variations of ideological differences and impassioned opinions. Evolution, climate change, and humans' roles in the increasing rate that animal species are becoming extinct

are mentioned in this book, and these words alone can cause some people to immediately gnash their teeth in disgruntled opposition. Debates over animal testing did not just start when the PETA animal rights organization was formed in 1980, but have been raging on for many centuries. If you insist that it is okay to eat animal meats or, far more egregious to animal rights activists, if you want to wear mink coats and clothing made from animal hides and furs, you may likely continue to do so even after reading this book. Or you may sneer at all of the different angles of discussion that are covered in this book. And if you believe that cock-fights and dog-fights are okay, well... this book likely will also not change your mind (no participant of cock-fights and dog-fights would read this book anyway). If you believe that humans are destined to rule over all animals and we can do whatever we want to all animals, especially if that is what your religious beliefs mandate, I am not sure this book will sway your opinion much.

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