



Advocating for the Devil: bees, jumping spiders and the Emperor's new clothes

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Growing and Protecting New Zealand



Advocatus Diaboli



The Devil's Advocate

- Symbolic
 - Uncover flaws in ...
 - Karl Popper
1. Understand
 2. Limits
 3. Non-sentience

1. Common understanding

- Having power of perception by the senses
- *Gro ba* (to go) toward pleasure, away from pain
- Capable of experiencing positive and negative states ... aware of their feelings and emotions ... not commodities
- Philosophy, science (didn't take people with them)
- Descartes & Watson

Descartes – lost in translation?

- *Bete-machine ... ‘totally without feeling’?*
- *... all the things that which dogs, horses and monkeys are made to do, are merely expressions of their fear, their hope, or their joy; and consequently they can do these things without any thought*

Kenny (1970)



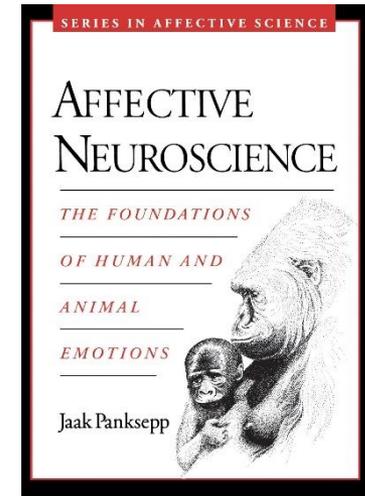
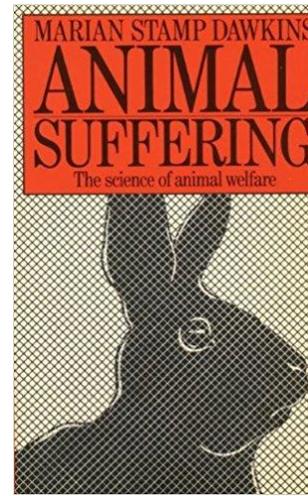
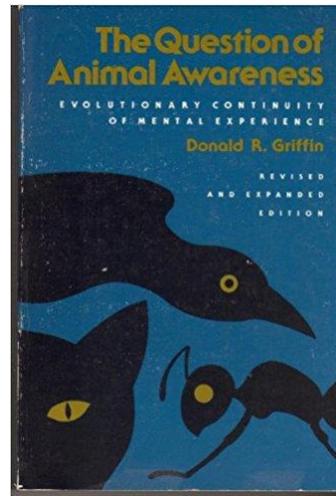
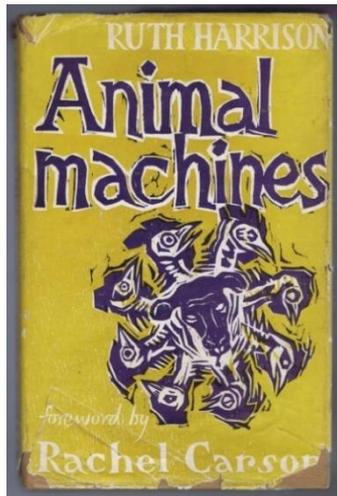
Behaviourism

- Science objective ... *sensation, perception, image, desire and even thinking and emotion* Watson (1928)
- Emotions, fear, sexual desire, maternal tenderness, motivate escaping from danger, courtship and copulation, caring for young McDougall (1926)

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1964



1998

Commonly accepted

- *... animals have senses emotions and consciousness; they demonstrate sagacity, docility, memory, association of ideas and reason; they also have imagination and the moral qualities of courage, friendship and loyalty.* Youatt (1839)
- *Pleasures and pains ... to seek the one and shun the other* Romanes (1884)

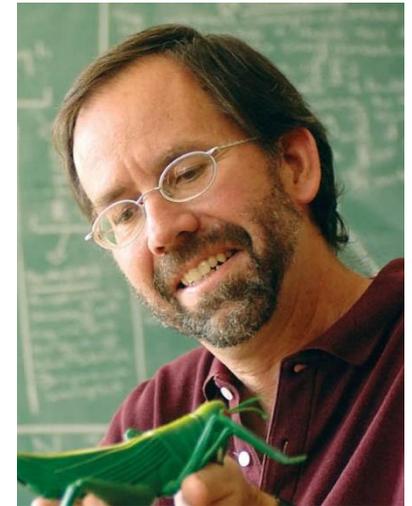
What are we responding to?

- Philosophy
- Science
- Common sense
- *If sentience is necessary for a consideration of welfare, surely it is sentience that welfare is all about.*
- Lessons of the past – positive emotions or opportunities for normal behaviour, likes and dislikes, but not sentience

Duncan 2004

2. Degrees and limits of sentience – insects

- See, hear, smell, taste, feel, and respond to pressure, shock, heat
- Ultraviolet wavelengths, polarisation of light
- Endorphins, neurotoxic insecticides
- Feel pain, learn (headless)
- Anaesthetised



Jeff Lockwood

Honey bees

- Sugar solutions on a boat – lakeshore, lake
- Bees communicated where food was
- Reject rich sources of food if in middle of a lake
- Integrate information with their mental map

Gould & Gould (1988); Tautz et al (2004)

- ... *possess a belief-desire cognitive architecture*



Carruthers (2007)

Jumping spiders

- Observe prey on other platforms
- Map route with eyes in reverse order
- Recall from different perspectives
- *... plan their routes to their prey in advance*



Tarsitano et al (1997, 1999)

Mental abilities and legal rights

Degrees of mental complexity

1. Symbols, language, deceive, mirror
2. Sense of self, think and act, visualise
3. Unknown (most animals)
4. Stimulus-response 'machines'

Wise (2002)

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Wise (2002)

- No sense in using science to draw the line!
- Does sentience justify moral concern?
- NIWAC

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- Genetically altered insentient pseudo-chickens (blind, featherless, ...)
- Needs provided for but only positive emotions
- Intuitively wrong – yuk!
- Used to it? Fork, margarine, artificial insemination
- More about humans than animals

Conclusions – going feral or progressing?

- *Can they suffer ... Can they think about themselves*
- Inspire respect?
- Law, philosophy, science, common sense...

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- Is sentience going to prevent this?



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