

WellBeing International
WBI Studies Repository

4-13-2016

Annotated Bibliography: Attitudes Toward Animals (2014-2015)

Erich Yahner
Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy

Follow this and additional works at: https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/hum_ed_bibs



Part of the [Animal Studies Commons](#), [Other Anthropology Commons](#), and the [Social Psychology and Interaction Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Yahner, Erich, "Annotated Bibliography: Attitudes Toward Animals (2014-2015)" (2016). *BIBLIOGRAPHIES*. 10.

https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/hum_ed_bibs/10

This material is brought to you for free and open access by WellBeing International. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the WBI Studies Repository. For more information, please contact wbisr-info@wellbeingintl.org.



**An Annotated Bibliography of Research Relevant to
Attitudes Toward Animals
2014-2015**

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy

**Compiled by Erich Yahner
(All Abstracts and Summaries from Authors or Publishers)**

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Blank, J. M., & Shaw, D. (2015). Does partisanship shape attitudes toward science and public policy? The case for ideology and religion. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 658(1), 18-35.

Despite the apparent partisan divide over issues such as global warming and hydraulic fracturing, little is known about what shapes citizens' willingness to accept scientific recommendations on political issues. We examine the extent to which Democrats, Republicans, and independents are likely to defer to scientific expertise in matters of policy. Our study draws on an October 2013 U.S. national survey of 2,000 respondents. We find that partisan differences exist: our data show that most Americans see science as relevant to policy, but that their willingness to defer to science in policy matters varies considerably across issues. While party, ideology, and religious beliefs clearly influence attitudes toward science, Republicans are not notably skeptical about accepting scientific recommendations. Rather, it seems that Democrats are particularly receptive to the advice and counsel of scientists, when compared to both independents and Republicans.

Borgi, M., & Cirulli, F. (2015). Attitudes toward animals among kindergarten children: Species preferences. *Anthrozoös*, 28(1), 45-59.

Attitudes toward animals are influenced by both animal traits (e.g., similarity to humans, aesthetic quality, size) and individual human attributes (e.g., gender, age, educational level, cultural factors). Although the examination of children's interest in animals, and their preference for different species, may evidence specific trends and help explain the development of attitudes, the vast majority of research has not considered children younger than 6 years. The present study was aimed at assessing preferences for a variety of animal species in a sample of 3–6 year-old Italian children, using a forced-choice task and visual aids (images of the animals). Pictures of 48 animal species, ranging from mammals to invertebrates, were presented to the children. Two photographic stimuli were simultaneously displayed and participants were asked to indicate their preference. Results show that the children preferred higher-order species, and domestic over wild animals. Apart from a few exceptions, invertebrates were the most disliked group of species among the children. Girls showed more negative and fear-related attitudes than the boys. Results are discussed taking into account different factors that may affect children's preferences for various animal species, that is, similarity to humans and aesthetical appeal. Greater knowledge on early attitudes toward animals has implications for promoting interest in animals and for building educational interventions for kindergarten children. This is particularly important in light of the growing use of different animals in educational and therapeutic contexts, as well as from an animal welfare perspective.

De Backer, C. J., & Hudders, L. (2015). Meat morals: relationship between meat consumption consumer attitudes towards human and animal welfare and moral behavior. *Meat Science*, 9968-74.

The aim of this work is to explore the relation between morality and diet choice by investigating how animal and human welfare attitudes and donation behaviors can predict a meat eating versus flexitarian versus vegetarian diet. The results of a survey study (N=299) show that animal health concerns (measured by the Animal Attitude Scale) can predict diet choice. Vegetarians are most concerned, while full-time meat eaters

are least concerned, and the contrast between flexitarians and vegetarians is greater than the contrast between flexitarians and full-time meat eaters. With regards to human welfare (measured by the Moral Foundations Questionnaire), results show that attitudes towards human suffering set flexitarians apart from vegetarians and attitudes towards authority and respect distinguish between flexitarians and meat eaters. To conclude, results show that vegetarians donate more often to animal oriented charities than flexitarians and meat eaters, while no differences between the three diet groups occur for donations to human oriented charities.

Dhont, K., & Hodson, G. (2014). Why do right-wing adherents engage in more animal exploitation and meat consumption?. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 64, 12-17.

Despite the well-documented implications of right-wing ideological dispositions for human intergroup relations, surprisingly little is understood about the implications for human–animal relations. We investigate why right-wing ideologies – social dominance orientation (SDO) and right-wing authoritarianism (RWA) – positively predict attitudes toward animal exploitation and meat consumption. Two survey studies conducted in heterogeneous community samples (Study 1, $N = 260$; Study 2, $N = 489$) demonstrated that right-wing ideologies predict greater acceptance of animal exploitation and more meat consumption through two explaining mechanisms: (a) perceived threat from non-exploitive ideologies to the dominant carnist ideology (for both SDO and RWA) and (b) belief in human superiority over animals (for SDO). These findings hold after controlling for hedonistic pleasure from eating meat. Right-wing adherents do not simply consume more animals because they enjoy the taste of meat, but because doing so supports dominance ideologies and resistance to cultural change. Psychological parallels between human intergroup relations and human–animal relations are considered.

Ford-Thompson, A., Snell, C., Saunders, G., & White, P. (2015). Dimensions of local public attitudes towards invasive species management in protected areas. *Wildlife Research*, 42(1), 60-74.

Context. Invasive species management is often a source of contention; therefore, understanding human dimensions is viewed increasingly as critical for management success. Aims. Using invasive Javan rusa deer (*Cervus timorensis*) in the Royal National Park (RNP), Sydney, as a case study, we sought to identify key dimensions of local public attitudes towards deer and associated management interventions, to identify the most divisive issues, and to assess the influence of experiences on attitudes. Methods. We used a mixed-methods approach, using a questionnaire targeted at residents closest to the border of the RNP ($n = 406$, 30% response rate). The potential for conflict index (PCI2) was used to analyse 32 framing statements, generated through in-depth interviews with 18 key stakeholders from a range of stakeholder groups (e.g. conservation, hunting, animal welfare). We also tested for significant differences in attitudes between those who had or had not experienced deer impacts or received information on deer management. We conducted qualitative analysis of open comments to identify emergent themes and develop an attitudes framework. Key results. We identified three overarching dimensions to local attitudes, namely, stakeholder, wildlife and management dimensions, each consisting of key themes and issues, forming the attitudes framework. The most divisive issues based on PCI2 analysis related to deer remaining in the park ($PCI2 = 0.626$), the heritage value of deer ($PCI2 = 0.626$), the need to remove deer ($PCI2 = 0.531$) and the need to kill non-natives in national parks ($PCI2 = 0.535$). Experience of deer-vehicle collisions and property damage were associated with significantly more negative attitudes towards deer and non-native species and more trust in ecological evidence ($P < 0.001$), whereas positive experience of deer had the opposite effect ($P < 0.001$). These experiences were also associated with attitudes towards aerial shooting ($P < 0.05$) but not hunting. Receiving information improved trust in ecological evidence and decreased belief in heritage value of deer ($P < 0.05$). Conclusions. Attitudes of the local public were varied and complex; however, a mixed-methods bottom-up approach allowed us to identify specific key issues of divisiveness and make management recommendations. Implications. The framework and analysis have the potential to facilitate conflict mitigation and develop invasive species management strategies that are inclusive of the local community.

Hansson, H., & Lagerkvist, C. J. (2014). Defining and measuring farmers' attitudes to farm animal welfare. *Animal Welfare*, 23(1), 47-56.

Identifying farmers' attitudes to farm animal welfare (FAW) is an important step in determining farmers' efforts to improve FAW, knowledge of which is of particular importance for understanding how the living conditions of

production animals are determined. This study developed a hypothetical model of farmers' attitudes to FAW, including the antecedents of these attitudes and possible influences on FAW-related behaviour. Two models for empirical measurement of attitudes, namely formative and reflective models, were also evaluated and compared. The results suggested that choice of measurement model considerably influences conceptualisation of attitudes and that there may be considerable model misspecifications in previous literature relating to farmers' FAW attitudes. Existing literature on farmers' FAW attitudes was reviewed with the aim of providing a preliminary indication of the coverage of farmers' FAW attitudes. A need for future research related to farmers' attitudes to FAW was identified.

Jackman, J. L., & Rutberg, A. T. (2015). Shifts in attitudes toward coyotes on the urbanized East Coast: The Cape Cod experience, 2005-2012. *Georisk: Assessment & Management of Risk for Engineered Systems & Geohazards*, 9(2), 333.

The migration of coyotes to northeastern United States since the mid-20th century has increased human-coyote interactions. This article offers insights into the evolution of attitudes toward Eastern coyotes by analyzing survey data from voters on Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 2005 and 2012. Responses were obtained in a region where familiarity and conflict with coyotes was high. The data supported growing acceptance of coyotes and increased opposition to lethal control. While previous research has found women to feel more negative toward and fearful of large carnivores, in this study gender differences in acceptance and fear of coyotes diminished with time. Greater opposition among women to lethal interventions persisted. Future studies should examine the gender and geographic dimensions of attitudinal change to more fully understand attitudes toward wildlife in urbanized environments.

Jamieson, J., Reiss, M. J., Allen, D., Asher, L., Parker, M. O., Wathes, C. M., & Abeyesinghe, S. M. (2015). Adolescents care but don't feel responsible for farm animal welfare. *Society & Animals*, 23(3), 269-297.

Adolescents are the next generation of consumers with the potential to raise standards of farm animal welfare—to their satisfaction—if their preferences and concerns are translated into accurate market drivers and signals. There are no published data about adolescent views of farm animal welfare to allow meaningful design, implementation, and evaluation of educational strategies to improve consideration of—and behavior toward—farm animals. Knowledge of farm animal welfare, as well as beliefs and attitudes about farm animal welfare and behavioral intention relevant to it were determined in a sample of UK adolescents, using a survey incorporating an extended version of the theory of planned behavior and novel assessment tools. Our results indicate that adolescents have only a limited knowledge of welfare problems for farm animals and welfare-relevant product labels. Intentions to identify welfare standards for the animals from whom their food was derived were weak. Although they cared about farm animal welfare and agreed with fundamental principles—for example, the provision of space and the absence of pain and suffering—like adults they held limited belief in the power and responsibility that they possess through their choices as consumers; responsibility was often shifted to others, such as the government and farmers.

Musto, M., Faraone, D., & Cellini, F. (2014). The role of cognitive styles and sociodemographic characteristics in consumer perceptions and attitudes toward nonhuman animal welfare. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 17(3), 198-215.

Given the increasing importance of exploring consumers' concerns about the welfare of farmed animals, a survey questionnaire was designed to investigate the role of cognitive styles along with sociodemographic characteristics in consumers' perceptions about nonhuman animal welfare (AW) and their willingness to pay for animal-friendly products. The results revealed that the survey respondents were concerned about AW and had negative perceptions of the way animals were treated. They showed positive attitudes toward some actions to be taken for improving AW and strongly agreed to pay more for animal-friendly products. Consistent with previous studies, results revealed significant associations between sociodemographics and concern toward AW. However, some observed differences were highlighted by cognitive styles rather than by sociodemographic characteristics. These results indicate a significant link between cognitive styles and perceptions and attitudes toward AW, which may outweigh previously found sociodemographic differences and fuel the contemporary debate on AW.

O'Bryhim, J. R., & Parsons, E. C. M. (2015). Increased knowledge about sharks increases public concern about their conservation. *Marine Policy*, 56, 43-47.

Gaining support for shark conservation has been extremely difficult due to the negative preconceived notions the general public holds toward sharks. In order to achieve public support for conservation initiatives the factors that will change an individual's attitude and behavior toward sharks must first be determined. Using structured questionnaire interviews ($n=186$), indices were created that rated an individual's knowledge, attitude, and potential behavior toward sharks and shark conservation. Generally public knowledge levels about sharks were low. However, people with more knowledge pertaining specifically about sharks had potential behaviors more supportive of their conservation. Therefore, it would seem that increases in public knowledge on sharks would help gain support for shark conservation. Males, members of environmental groups, and viewers of shark documentaries and "Shark Week" all showed significantly higher levels of knowledge about sharks. The media (such as "Shark Week") can play a significant role in promoting conservation, but unfortunately media coverage of sharks has been controversial recently with the airing of several non-factual, fake documentaries. To promote shark conservation the media's message has to be unbiased, non-sensationalized, and accurate to ensure people are receiving the information necessary to build strong pro-shark conservation behaviors.

Phillips, C. (2014). Effects of field of study on university students' attitudes towards animal issues. *Animal Welfare*, 23(4), 459-466.

The field of study of university students may influence their attitudes towards animals, which in turn may influence their behaviour. Attitudes to animals in university students in eleven countries were obtained by survey, and the influence of field of study was evaluated after correcting for other influential factors. Students of agriculture were most accepting of killing animals, unnatural practices on animals, animal experimentation and animal rights issues, whereas humanities and arts students were less accepting of unnatural practices on animals and animal experimentation than students of other disciplines. Nevertheless, agriculture students had one of the highest proportions involved in animal protection organisations. It is suggested that regular contact with animals inures agriculture students to animal issues, whereas students in the humanities and arts, that have less contact with farm animals, have greater concern.

Pollard-Williams, S., Doyle, R., & Freire, R. (2014). The Influence of workplace learning on attitudes toward animal welfare in veterinary students. *Journal Of Veterinary Medical Education*, 41(3), 253-257.

Several studies suggest that veterinary students' empathy for animals declines during the years spent at university yet the factors responsible for this change are not well understood. This study focused on the influence of workplace learning (WPL) on veterinary students' empathy for animals. WPL comprises off-campus placements and is common to all veterinary degree programs. A survey of 150 veterinary students at Charles Sturt University was conducted using an established animal-empathy scale. In general, our findings supported previous studies that empathy for animals declines between the first and fifth year and is lower in male students than in female students. Our findings indicated that specific factors relating to WPL such as pre-clinical extramural studies and clinical placements significantly influenced the students' beliefs on animal welfare. The findings presented here suggest that closer examination of the impact of WPL within the veterinary curricula is important to understanding students' changes in empathy for animals and the development of ethical principles in veterinary education.

Zalaf, A., & Egan, V. (2015). A new questionnaire examining general attitudes toward animals in Cyprus and the United Kingdom. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research*, 10(2), 111-117.

A review of the animal welfare literature indicates that all the current measures used to evaluate it have limitations in how they assess attitudes toward animals and their care. Few studies have examined animal welfare outside non-Western nations, although attitudes toward animals and their welfare is an important issue in these countries also. The present study examines attitudes toward animal welfare in Cyprus as compared with the United Kingdom, and describes the development of a new measure to integrate the ostensibly disparate dimensions underlying attitudes toward animals and their abuse. Pilot items sampling a variety of attitudes toward animal welfare were administered to 523 people in the United Kingdom and Cyprus. Exploratory factor

analyses indicated that many of the subdimensions proposed could not be empirically identified, and a general animal welfare dimension was sufficient to capture most of the variance. This scale—the Animal Welfare Scale—had a good reliability. The Animal Welfare Scale is brief and simple to score, extending the potential for research in the field of animal welfare alongside other psychological constructs and does not need any specialist administration to deliver; hence, it is potentially applicable to any animal welfare issues.

BOOKS

Goodale, G. (2015). *The rhetorical invention of man. A history of distinguishing humans from other animals*. Lexington: Lexington Books. ISBN: 9781498509305.

This book draws attention to the logical contradictions, unstable premises, and unquestioned assumptions that underlie arguments about Man's distinction, while also demonstrating that the way we think about nonhuman animals is only one possibility among many. Vestiges of older ways of thinking continue to inform our understanding of the human-nonhuman animal relationship, disturbing the simple narrative that Man has mastered nature. The reader will additionally find here a history that illuminates popular attitudes toward nature as well as intellectual traditions about the relationship between Man and other animals. As a result, each chapter is an overview of how the past continues to inform the present. The chapters, then, move back and forth between ancient ideas like the myths of Prometheus and Orpheus, Age of Reason philosophers like Francis Bacon and Immanuel Kant and modern practices like pet keeping and vivisection.

In Gregersdotter, K., In Höglund, J. A., & In Hållén, N. (2015). *Animal horror cinema: Genre, history and criticism*. ISBN: 9781137496386.

The first academic study of the genre of animal horror cinema is essential for cinema and animal studies scholars as well as for fans of horror film. It defines this popular sub-genre, outlines its history and studies recent films as well as cult classics from a variety of perspectives. A central idea in the book is that animal horror cinema mirrors socially entrenched fears of and attitudes toward animals. Thus, animal horror cinema reveals attitudes toward the fabric of social life, the fragility of the eco-system and a deep uncertainty about what makes humans different from animals. The book contains chapters by scholars with different national and disciplinary backgrounds, and therefore offers a wide range of interpretations on the significance of the animal in modern horror film.

Markwell, K. (2015). *Animals and tourism: Understanding diverse relationships*. ISBN: 9781845415044.

This book critically examines the many ways in which tourism and animals intersect and aims to make a meaningful contribution to the growing body of knowledge concerning the relationships between animals, tourists and the tourism industry.

Marvin, G., & McHugh, S. (2014). *Routledge handbook of human-animal studies*. ISBN: 9780415521406.

Human-animal studies explores the ways that animals are configured in human cultures. It is an interdisciplinary field that has grown rapidly over the past decade. The Handbook of Human-Animal Studies is a one-stop guide to the subject area, with overviews of the many distinct areas which go together to form the field.

Van, N. F. (2015). *Varmints and victims: Predator control in the American West*. ISBN: 9780700621316.

"Varmints and Victims" is a comprehensive history of the complicated and fascinating relationships between humans and Western predators, from the era of unquestioned eradication to the current debates over recovery and reintroduction.