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Animal Rights International

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The question raised by Voices Across the USA Sept 13 – “Do animal-rights activists go too far in trying to protect animals?” – suggested a mythical linkage between animal rights and violence toward humans.

In reality, the movement promotes consistent non-violence: It's wrong to harm others and that goes for both humans and other animals.

Voices also spotlighted the unfortunate reality that the media have a tendency to focus on the sensational at the expense of more meaningful news. And this may be precisely the reason some activists resort to the spectacular.

Yet, almost without exception, animal protectionists deplore even the threat of violence. I don't know of anybody who's been physically injured in the USA by animal protectionists.

The real violence is done to the bodies and minds of billions of innocent animals destined for dinner and for labs.

Many of us are working constructively with "the other side" to reduce animal suffering and, in the process, change public attitudes toward animals. We urge advocates for social change to seek common ground with their adversaries as a way of making progress.

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