Healing Society's Relationship with Animals:

IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, ONE IS continuously mindful of the world's beauty and sacredness of human life and of the virtue in promoting and enhancing it. This applies not only to the medical treatment and articulate human beings, but also to the least fortunate among us, including children with severe impairments and developmental defects, some of which may be so profound as to preclude any meaningful communication with others.

Each individual has a unique value, not by virtue of his or her level of intelligence or ability to communicate in a certain way, but by virtue of the energy inhabiting that body which instills recognizable "life" into its protoplasm. This energy, which activates the human brain, allows the physical structures of the brain to achieve consciousness, make decisions, think and feel, and pain and pleasure. Without such energy, the human body (including the brain) is merely a carcass devoid of these capabilities.

Although scientists are attempting to develop the technology to measure this energy directly, there is currently no consistent way to do so. We can, however, measure many of its consequences. For example, from an electrical standpoint, the brain can be measured via the electroencephalogram (EEG).

The analogy of this energy in the human with that in other animals is, upon reflection, self-evident, particularly for those human beings who have closely associated with animals and observed their personalities carefully over years. Even without such careful observation, logic would dictate that the life-conferring energy allowing consciousness, thoughts, decisions, pain perception, etc., are not only present in the human body but also exist in other living animals as it resides in living organisms in general.

Thus, the question is not whether such life-energy exists in animals but whether or not it is measurable. One method to measure this energy, which activates a biological system, is through the electrical activity ("brainwaves") as they are known to exist in the human brain. Electrical activity can be measured via the electroencephalogram (EEG).

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