# Contemporary Moral Problems

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* 3 Points About Animal Cruelty
  + Cruelty to animals is wrong
  + Cruelty is the “infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering”
  + What is to count as necessary is determined, in part, by the nature of the end pursuit
* Counterintuitive Result of Equal Consideration
  + “If singer is right, then we get this result. Feeding starving children before feeding starving dogs is just like a catholic charities feeding hungry Catholics before feeding hungry non-Catholics”
  + They are not just like one another
  + Non-discrimination is OK in the Catholics case, but we would not admire it in the dog case.
  + Singer is not committed to that at all.
* Justification for favoring human interests
  + Uniquely human capacities
    - Moral Responsibility
      * We are normally held responsible for what we do.
    - Reciprocation (Capacity for altruism)
      * We can be motivated by moral reasons
      * Requires relatively abstract concepts
    - Desire for self-respect
      * Interest in freedom & self-determination
  + Singers commitment
    - 1) Singer: We need not value the lives of humans and nonhumans equally. (Because of ‘Person’ Capability)
    - 2) Freedom from suffering is “the minimum condition” for the exercise of the ‘Person’ capacities
    - 3) Therefore, we need not value the suffering of humans and non-humans equally.
    - Moral Agents
      * Something that can do right and wrong. Moral actors. Humans are part of this.
    - Moral Patients
      * Something that can be acted on that are right or wrong. This that can be harmed, done to them that go against their interests.