

# E A R T H L I N G S

The Documentary Screenplay

Written by Shaun Monson

This is the screenplay for EARTHLINGS in its final form, from which the filmmakers worked. Although it is a documentary, I also consider EARTHLINGS to be something of an anthology film. As such, the movie contains footage contributed by several organizations, (including People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, The Humane Society of the United States, Last Chance for Animals, Greenpeace, The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Farm Sanctuary, Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty, The Humane Farming Association, In Defense of Animals, and others). The film is narrated and features a soundtrack by two well-known vegans: Joaquin Phoenix and Moby. It also contains quotes and references from renowned animal welfare authors like Tom Regan, Peter Singer, John Robbins, Hans Ruesch, Matthew Scully, Gail Eisnetz, Amy Blount Achor and Steve Best. Along with myself, the film was also co-produced by fellow animal activists Persia White and Libra Max. Many more worthy individuals contributed as well, and they are listed in the closing credits. I am indebted to each of them for helping me bring this very heartfelt project to light. Thank you.

– Shaun Monson  
Los Angeles, July

2006

DISCLAIMER:

The images you are about to see are not isolated cases. These are the Industry Standard for animals bred as Pets, Food, Clothing, for Entertainment and Research. Viewer discretion is advised.

TITLE CARD:

THE THREE STAGES OF  
TRUTH

1. RIDICULE
2. VIOLENT OPPOSITION
3. ACCEPTANCE

WE SEE WIDE SHOTS OF PLANET EARTH, SPINNING SILENTLY IN SPACE.

TITLE CARD:

EARTHLINGS

MORE ANGLES OF THE BLUE PLANET; THE LAST ONE SHOWING CLOUD FORMATIONS THAT INDICATE A HURRICANE.

TITLE CARD:

earth'ling: n. One who inhabits of the earth.

A CROWDED NEW YORK SIDEWALK. FISH SWIMMING, DOGS PLAYING, CHILDREN IN THE PARK, BIRDS FLYING OVERHEAD.

NARRATOR

Since we all inhabit the earth, all of us are considered *earthlings*. There is no sexism, no racism or *speciesism* in the term earthling. It encompasses each and every one of us: warm or cold blooded, mammal, vertebrate or invertebrate, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, and human alike. Humans, therefore, being not the *only* species on the planet, share this world with millions of other living creatures, as we all evolve here together.

SHOTS OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION: DIRTY COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS, SMOKE STACKS BELCHING INTO THE SKY, TOXIC CHEMICALS, LAND FILLS AND GARBAGE DUMPS.

NARRATOR

However, it is the *human earthling* who tends to dominate the earth, often times treating other fellow earthlings and living beings as mere objects. This is what is meant by *speciesism*.

TITLE CARD: FESTIVAL OF THE BULLS, SPAIN  
NIGHT SHOT OF A BULL TIED TO A ROPE AND LEAD THROUGH THE CITY. THRONGS OF PEOPLE PUSH AND SHOVE THE ANIMAL.

NARRATOR

By analogy with racism and sexism, the term "speciesism" is a prejudice or attitude of bias in favor of the interests of members of one's own species and against those of members of other species. If a being suffers there can be no moral justification for refusing to take *that* suffering into consideration. No matter what the nature of the being, the principle of equality requires that one's suffering can be counted equally with the *like* suffering of any other being.

STILLS OF SLAVES; ADOLF HITLER; STOCK FOOTAGE OF THE KKK AND SUFFREGETTES; AND FINALLY ANIMAL ABUSE.

NARRATOR

Racists violate the principle of equality by giving greater weight to the interests of members of their own race when their is a clash between their interests and the interests of those of another race. Sexists violate the principle of equality by favoring the interests of their own sex. Similarly, speciesists allow the interests of their own species to override the greater interests of members of other species. In each case, the pattern is identical.<sup>1</sup>

ANOTHER CROWDED NEW YORK SIDEWALK; A NEW BORN BABY CRYING; BLACK & WHITE FOOTAGE OF A RIOT ...

NARRATOR

Though among the members of the human family we recognize the moral imperative of respect (every human is a somebody, not a something), morally disrespectful treatment occurs

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<sup>1</sup> Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 6-9

when those who stand at the power end of a power relationship treat the less powerful as if they were mere objects.

PHOTOGRAPH OF RAPE VICTIMS, ABUSED CHILDREN, NAZIS ...

NARRATOR

The rapist does this to the victim of rape. The child molester to the child molested. The master to the slave. In each and all such cases, humans who have power exploit those who lack it.

MONTAGE OF ANIMALS: A FACTORY FARM WORKER DROPS A CINDER BLOCK ON THE HEAD OF A DOWN PIG. FOOTAGE OF ANIMALS IN THE WILD; IN THEIR NATURAL HABITATS.

NARRATOR

Might the same be true of how humans treat other animals, or other earthlings? Undoubtedly there are differences, since humans and animals are not the same in all respects. But the question of sameness wears another face. Granted, these animals do not have all the desires we humans have; granted, they do not comprehend everything we humans comprehend; nevertheless, we and they do have some of the same desires and do comprehend some of the same things. The desires for food and water, shelter and companionship, freedom of movement and avoidance of pain — these desires are shared by nonhuman animals and human beings. As for comprehension: like humans, many nonhuman animals understand the world in which they live and move. Otherwise, they could not survive.

MONTAGE CONTINUES: PENGUINS IN THE ARCTIC, THE BIRTH OF A BABY HARP SEAL, A GORILLA NURSING HER YOUNG. THE MONTAGE CONCLUDES WITH FACTORY FARM FOOTAGE AGAIN: COWS, PIGS, ETC.

NARRATOR

So beneath the many differences, there is sameness. Like us, these animals embody the mystery and wonder of consciousness. Like us, they are not only in the world, they are aware of it. Like us they are the psychological centers of a life that is uniquely their own. In these fundamental respects humans stand "on all fours," so to speak, with hogs and cows, chickens and turkeys. What these animals are due from us, how we morally ought to treat them, are questions whose answer begins with the

recognition of our psychological kinship with them.<sup>2</sup> So the following film demonstrates in five ways just how animals have come to serve mankind ... lest we forget.

BLACK & WHITE CARD OF A SHEEP ABOVE THE FOLLOWING CAPTION:

"I WILL FEED YOU AND CLOTHE YOU."

SHOT OF ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER AND THE COVER OF HIS BOOK *Enemies: A Love Story*. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY A SLAUGHTERHOUSE SCENE, WHEREIN A WORKER APPLIES THE CAPTIVE BOLT GUN TO THREE PIGS, WHO ALL SQUEEL AND CRUMBLE TO THE FLOOR.

NARRATOR

Nobel Prize winner Isaac Bashevis Singer wrote in his best-selling novel *Enemies, A Love Story* the following: "As often as Herman had witnessed the slaughter of animals and fish, he always had the same thought: in their behavior toward creatures, all men were Nazis. The smugness with which man could do with other species as he pleased exemplified the most extreme racist theories, the principle that might is right."

IMAGERY AND STOCK FOOTAGE FROM THE HOLOCAUST, (AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP) FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER AERIAL VIEW OF A FACTORY FARM, WITH COWS HUDDLED TOGETHER IN MASSES FOR AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.

NARRATOR

The comparison here to the holocaust is both intentional and obvious: one group of living beings anguishes beneath the hands of another. Though some will argue the suffering of animals cannot possibly compare with that of former Jews or slaves, there is, in fact, a parallel. And for the prisoners and victims of *this* mass murder, their holocaust is far from over.

MONTAGE: CONTINUOUS — ANIMALS IN THE WILD, (LAND AND SEA).

NARRATOR

In his book *The Outermost House* author Henry Beston wrote, "We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature, and

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<sup>2</sup> Tom Regan, "The Burden of Complicity." Preface to *Dead Meat* by Sue Coe, p. 1-2 (Four Walls Eight Windows, 1995).

living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creatures through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren; they are not underlings; they are *other nations*, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth."

TITLE CARD: PART ONE: PETS

HOME MOVIE FOOTAGE: PETS AND CHILDREN, BOSTON TERRIERS, ETC.

NARRATOR

For most of us, our relationship with animals involves the owning of a pet or two. So where do our pets come from? Of course, one of the most obvious ways animals *serve* man is as companions.

TITLE CARD: BREEDERS

NARRATOR

For these pets it starts with a breeder, though not all breeders are considered *professional*. In fact, in this profession, just about anyone and everyone can be a breeder.

TITLE CARD: PET STORES AND PUPPY MILLS

HIDDEN FOOTAGE FROM PUPPY MILLS. WE SEE DOGS IN VARIOUS STATES OF PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL DECAY. ONE DOG CIRCLES HIS KENNEL ENDLESSLY; ANOTHER'S EYES ARE SWOLLEN, ETC.

NARRATOR

For pet stores, most of their animals are acquired from puppy mills, even if they may not know it. Puppy mills are low-budget commercial enterprises that breed dogs for sale to pet shops and other buyers. They are often backyard operations that expose animals to filthy, overcrowded conditions with no veterinary care or socialization. Dogs

from puppy mills often exhibit physical and psychological problems as they grow up.<sup>3</sup>

TITLE CARD: STRAYS

SUPER 8MM FOOTAGE OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS [ACO] IN L.A. COUNTY. WE SEE ACOs ROUNDING UP STRAYS IN THE STREET, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS UNWANTED ANIMALS AT THE SHELTER(S).

NARRATOR

Strays, if they are lucky, will be picked up and taken to a shelter or pound, where they can only hope to find a new home again. An estimated 25 million animals become homeless every year. And as many as 27% of purebred dogs are among the homeless. Of these 25 million homeless animals, an average of 9 million die on the streets from disease, starvation, exposure, injury, or some other hazard of street life. Many others are strays, some of whom were presumably dumped in the streets by their caretakers.<sup>4</sup> The remaining 16 million die in pounds or shelters that have no room for them and are forced to kill them. Sadly, on top of all this, almost 50% of the animals brought to shelters are turned in by their caretakers. Many people claim they don't visit shelters because it's depressing for them. But the reason animals are crowded into such dreary places as these, is because of people's refusal to spay or neuter their pets. Several pet owners feel, particularly men for some reason, that neutering a pet emasculates the owner somehow ... or they may just want their children to someday experience the "miracle of life," so to speak. In either case, pet owners like these unknowingly take part in the euthanasia of over 60,000 animals per day.

TITLE CARD: EUTHANASIA

FOOTAGE OF ANIMALS BEING EUTHANIZED IN SHELTERS AND PILED INTO DUMPSTERS.

NARRATOR

Euthanasia, generally defined as the act of killing painlessly for reasons of mercy, is usually administered by an injection in the leg for dogs, and sometimes in the stomach for cats. It is a quick and painless procedure for the animals, and by far the most humane, but not always the

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<sup>3</sup> Amy Blount Achor, *Animal Rights*, p. 418

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p. 35-36

most affordable. Due to the increase of euthanasia in shelters, and the growing, constant, demand for drugs like *Euthasol*, some shelters with budget constraints are forced to use gas chambers instead.

TITLE CARD: GAS CHAMBERS

FOOTAGE OF CATS AND DOGS LOADED INTO CHAMBERS AND GASSED.

NARRATOR

In a gas chamber, animals are packed very tightly and can take as long as 20 minutes to die. It is, by far, less merciful, more traumatic and painful. But the procedure is less expensive.

CONTINUED FOOTAGE OF DOMESTIC PETS BEING GASSED, POISONED, SHOT, AND IN ONE CASE, THROWN INTO THE TRASH COMPACTOR OF A GARBAGE TRUCK.

NARRATOR

Perhaps some of the tough questions we should ask ourselves about animals that we keep as companions are: Can we keep animals as companions and *still* address their needs? Is our keeping companion animals in *their* best interest, or are we exploiting them? The answers to these questions may lie in the attitudes of the *human* caretakers and their abilities to provide suitable environments for companion animals.<sup>5</sup> Most human beings are speciesists. This film shows that ordinary human beings (not a few exceptionally cruel or heartless humans, but the overwhelming majority of people), take an active part in, acquiesce in, and allow their taxes to pay for practices that require the sacrifice of the most important interests of members of other species, in order to promote the most trivial interests of our own species.<sup>6</sup> The hope for the animals of tomorrow is to be found in a Human Culture which learns to feel beyond itself. We must learn empathy, we must learn to see into the eyes of an animal and feel that their life has value because *they* are alive.<sup>7</sup>

TITLE CARD: PART TWO: FOOD

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<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 33-34

<sup>6</sup> Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 9

<sup>7</sup> Kenneth White, Dep. Director, San Francisco Department of Animal Care & Control, *Animal's Voice Magazine*

A WORKER SHOTS A PIG WITH A CAPTIVE BOLT GUN, BUT MISSES. WE HEAR HIM SING: "Oh, I missed. I missed you, honey. But I'll get you again!" HE FIRES ONCE MORE AND THE PIG GOES INTO CONVULSIONS. THE WORKER SAYS: "I got you! Good boy!" THEN HE SHOTS THE OTHER PIGS. MORE SLAUGHTERHOUSE FOOTAGE: COWS, PIGS, CHICKENS, TURKEYS, ETC. FOOTAGE OF MEAT IN GROCERY STORES.

NARRATOR

What happens in slaughterhouses is a variation on the theme of the exploitation of the weak by the strong. More than ten thousand times a minute, in excess of six billion times a year, just in the United States, life is literally drained from so-called "food animals." Having the greater power, humans decide *when* these animals will die, *where* they will die, and *how* they will die. The interests of these animals themselves play no role whatsoever in the determination of their fate.<sup>8</sup> Killing an animal is, in itself, a troubling act. It has been said that if we had to kill our own meat, we would all be vegetarians. Certainly very few people ever visit a slaughterhouse, and films of slaughterhouse operations are not popular on television. People might hope that the meat they buy came from an animal who died without pain, but they don't really want to know about it. Yet those who, by their purchases, *require* animals to be killed, do not deserve to be shielded from this or any other aspect of the production of the meat they buy.<sup>9</sup> So where does our food come from? For those of us living on a meat diet, the process these animals undergo is as follows.

TITLE CARD:       BRANDING

A COW'S HEAD IS FASTENED BETWEEN WOODEN SLATS WITH A NOSE RING. A HOT IRON IS PRESSED AGAINST THE POOR ANIMAL'S CHEEK.

NARRATOR

For beef, the animals are all branded ... in this instance, on the face.

TITLE CARD:       DEHORNING

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<sup>8</sup> Tom Regan, "The Burden of Complicity." Preface to *Dead Meat* by Sue Coe, p. 2 (Four Walls Eight Windows, 1995).

<sup>9</sup> Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 150

THE BRANDED COW IS NOW CHAINED THROUGH ANOTHER FENCE. BOLT CUTTERS ARE USED TO PINCH OFF HIS HORNS. BLOOD SQUIRTS. THE ANIMAL THROWS HIS HEAD BACK BUT CAN'T MOVE.

NARRATOR

Dehorning usually follows. Never with anesthetic. But rather a large pair of pliers.

TITLE CARD: TRANSPORTATION

SHOT OF COWS PACKED INTO TRUCKS, DEAD OR DYING, ELECTRIC PRODS USED TO GET THEM ALL IN THERE.

NARRATOR

In transportation, animals are packed so tightly into trucks, they are practically on top of one another. Heat, freezing temperatures, fatigue, trauma, and health conditions will kill some of these animals in route to the slaughterhouses.

TITLE CARD: MILKING

TRACKING SHOT OF MILKING COWS LINED UP IN STALLS; MACHINES SUCKING FROM THEIR UTTERS; VEINS POPPING.

NARRATOR

Milking cows are kept chained to their stalls all day long, receiving no exercise. Pesticides and antibiotics are also used to increase their milk productivity. Eventually, milking cows, like this one, collapse from exhaustion.

A MILKING COW IS DRAGGED BY A CHAIN AND WENCH INTO A TRUCK. SHE MOOS.

NARRATOR

Normally, cows can live as long as twenty years, but milking cows generally die within four. At which point, their meat is used for fast food restaurants.

TITLE CARD: MEAT

A COW IS BROUGHT ONTO THE KILL FLOOR OF A SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

NARRATOR

At this slaughterhouse, the branded and dehorned cattle are brought into a stall.

TITLE CARD: CAPTIVE BOLTS

THE COW IS SHOT BETWEEN THE EYES. DROPS TO THE FLOOR.  
HEAD BOBBING. STUNNED.

NARRATOR

The captive bolt gun, which was *designed* to reduce animals unconscious without causing pain, fires a steel bolt, that is powered by compressed air or a blank cartridge, right into the animal's brain.

TITLE CARD: BLEEDING

A CHAIN IS TIED AROUND THE COW'S HOOF AND THE ANIMAL IS HOISTED INTO THE AIR. A FACTORY WORKER SLITS HIS THROAT. COLLECTS THE BLOOD IN A BUCKET. THE ANIMAL IS THEN MOVED KICKING AND WREATHING INTO AN ASSEMBLY LINE TO "BLEED OUT."

NARRATOR

Though various methods of slaughter are used, in this Massachusetts facility, the cattle is hoisted up and his or her throat is slit. Along with the meat, their blood will be used as well. Though the animal has received a captive bolt to the head, which is supposed to have rendered him or her senseless ... as you can see the animal is still conscious. This is not uncommon. Sometimes they are still alive even *after* they have been bled, and are well on their way down the assembly line to be butchered.

TITLE CARD: KNOCKING BOXES

WE SEE SEVERAL COWS BROUGHT INTO THE KNOCKING BOXES, SHOT IN THE HEAD WITH CAPTIVE BOLTS, THEN FALLING THROUGH THE FLOOR WHERE A WALL SWIVELS OPEN TO RECEIVE THEM.

TITLE CARD: KOSHER SLAUGHTER

FOOTAGE FROM A GLATT KOSHER PLANT.

NARRATOR

This is the largest glatt kosher meat plant in the United States. Glatt, the Yiddish word for "smooth," means the highest standard of cleanliness ... and *rules* for kosher butchering require *minimal* suffering. The use of electric prods on immobilized animals is a violation. Inverting frightened animals for the slaughterer's convenience is also a violation. The inversion process causes cattle to

aspirate blood, or breath it in, after incision. Ripping the trachea and esophagi from their throats is another egregious violation, since kosher animals are *not* to be touched ... until bleeding stops. And by dumping struggling and dying steers through metal chutes onto blood soaked floors, with their breathing tubes and gullets dangling out, this "sacred task" is neither clean or compassionate. Shackling and hoisting is ruled yet another violation, nor does it correspond to the kosher way of treating animals. If this was kosher, death was neither quick nor merciful.

TITLE CARD:       VEAL

VEAL CALVES ARE TIED IN CRATES; TRYING TO WRIGGLE FREE. THEY CAN DO NOTHING BUT STAND WITH A ROPE AROUND THEIR NECKS.

NARRATOR

Veal, taken from their mothers within two days of birth, are tied at the neck and kept restricted to keep muscles from developing. Fed an iron-deficient *liquid* diet, denied bedding, water, and light, after four months of this miserable existence they are slaughtered.

TITLE CARD:       PORK

AN ENORMOUS SOW DOWN ON HER SIDE, LAYING ON A METAL GRATE, BREAST FEEDING HER YOUNG.

NARRATOR

Sows in factory farms are breeding machines, kept continually pregnant by means of artificial insemination. Large pig market factories will "manufacture," as they like to call it, between 50,000 and 600,000 pigs a year ... each.<sup>10</sup>

WE SEE GESTRATION CRATES AND WASTE PITS, CANNABALISM, RUPTURES AND ABSSESSES, AND SEVERAL DEAD PIGS.

TITLE CARD:       TAIL DOCKING

PIGLETS HAVE THEIR TAILS CUT OFF WITH WIRE-CUTTERS, THEIR EAR'S CLIPPED, THEIR TEETH FILED AND ARE CASTRATED. ALL OF THEM SQUEELING IN PAIN.

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<sup>10</sup> Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 123

NARRATOR

Tail docking is a practice derived from the lack of space and stressful living conditions so as to keep pigs from biting each other's tails off. This is done without anesthetic.

TITLE CARD: EAR CLIPPING

USING PLIERS, WORKERS CUT OFF SQUEELING PIGS' EARS AND TEETH.

NARRATOR

Ear clipping is a similar procedure, also administered without anesthetic.

TITLE CARD: TEETH CUTTING

NARRATOR

As well as teeth-cutting.

TITLE CARD: CASTRATION

NARRATOR

Castration is also done without painkillers or anesthetic, and will *supposedly* produce a more fatty grade of meat.

TITLE CARD: ELECTRIC PRODS

PIGS GIVEN ELECTRIC PRODS ARE UNABLE TO WALK AFTERWARD. ONE HAS TO BE DRAGGED BY THE EAR. ANOTHER STUMBLES INTO A PEN, DRAGGING HER HIND LEGS.

NARRATOR

The electric prods are used for obvious reasons: handling.

TITLE CARD: ELECTROCUTION

ELECTRIC RINGS ARE PINCHED AROUND MORE PIGS' NECKS. VOLTS SURGE THROUGH THEIR BODIES, IMMOBILIZING THEM.

NARRATOR

Electrocution is another method of slaughter, as seen here.

TITLE CARD: THROAT SLITTING

PIGS HUNG UPSIDE DOWN ON AN ASSEMBLY LINE HAVE THEIR THROATS SLIT.

NARRATOR

Throat slitting, however, is still the least expensive way to kill an animal.

TITLE CARD: BOILING AND SKINNING

A DEAD BLACK PIG IS PLACED IN BOILING WATER AND ITS BODY ROTATED ON A MACHINE THAT STRIPS AWAY FUR. THEN A HANDLER APPLIES A BLOW-TORCH TO REMOVE ANY STRAY BITS OF HAIR.

NARRATOR

After knife sticking, pigs are shackled, suspended on a bleed-rail and immersed in scalding tanks to remove their bristle. Many are still struggling as they are dunked upside down in tanks of steaming water, where they are submerged and drowned.

TITLE CARD: POULTRY

FOOTAGE OF CHICKENS IN FACTORY FARMS. THOUSANDS OF THEM. WE SEEM THEM FROM CHICKS TO ADULTHOOD AND EXECUTION. THEY ARE INNOCULATED, THEIR BEAKS SEVERED, AND THEN CROWDED INTO BATTERY CAGES OR WAREHOUSES.

NARRATOR

In regard to poultry, Americans currently consume as much chicken in a single day as they did in an entire year in 1930. The largest broiler companies in the world now slaughter more than 8.5 million birds in a single week.<sup>11</sup>

TITLE CARD: DEBEAKING

FOOTAGE OF CHICKENS' BEAKS BEING SEARED DOWN TO STUMPS.

NARRATOR

Debeaking prevents feather-pecking and cannibalism in frustrated chickens, caused by over-crowding in single areas, where they are unable to establish a social order. Today, done with infant chicks, the procedure is carried out very quickly, about 15 birds a minute. Such haste means the temperature and sharpness of the blade varies, resulting in sloppy cutting and serious injury to the bird.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 123

<sup>12</sup> Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 101

TITLE CARD: LIVING CONDITIONS

WIDE SHOT OF HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF TURKEYS IN A ROOM. WE SEE HENS IN "BATTERY CAGES" ABOVE GROUND, WITH FECES PILED IN MOUNDS BENEATH.

NARRATOR

As for their living conditions, anywhere from sixty to ninety thousand birds can be crowded together in a single building. The suffering for these animals is unrelenting. It is a way of life. Although their beaks are severed, they attempt to peck each other. For hens, they live in a laying warehouse, crammed inside so-called "battery cages." Many lose their feathers and develop sores from rubbing against the wire cage. Crowding prevents them from spreading their wings, and the hens cannot even fulfill minimal natural instincts.<sup>13</sup>

TITLE CARD: TRANSPORTATION

CHICKES ARE TRANSPORTED AND DUMPED ON A CONVEYOR BELT.

NARRATOR

During transportation, all animals suffer, and many die. And they suffocate when other animals pile on top of them in overcrowded, poorly loaded cages.

TITLE CARD: SLAUGHTER

WE SEE BLACK & WHITE FOOTAGE OF A "HANG PEN" IN WEST VIRGINIA, WHERE CHICKENS ARE HURLED AGAINST A WALL AND STOMPED BY WORKERS. THEY DANGLE UPSIDE DOWN WHILE THEIR THROATS ARE SLIT, OR ARE CLUBBED ON THE GROUND.

NARRATOR

Chickens and turkeys are slaughtered in numerous ways. Some may be clubbed to death or have their heads cut off. But most are brought through the assembly lines of factory farms. Dangled upside down on a conveyor belt, their throats are slit, and they are left to bleed to death. Others may be placed head-first in tubes to restrict their movement while they slowly bleed to death. Surely, if slaughterhouses had glass walls, would not all of us be vegetarians?

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<sup>13</sup> Regan, *Animal Rights*, p. 82

WE SEE A WORKER BEATING PIGS IN THEIR PENS.

NARRATOR

But slaughterhouses do not have glass walls. The architecture of slaughter is opaque, designed in the interest of denial, to insure that we will not see even if we wanted to look. And who wants to look?

AN ANGRY WORKER SHOUTS: "Go mother fucker! Don't fuckin' stop. Let's go, let's go!!! Come on, bitch!" AND HE BEATS A ROW OF PIGS UNABLE TO MOVE. WE SEE ROWS OF PLASTIC-WRAPPED MEAT IN THE FROZEN SECTION OF A SUPERMARKET.

NARRATOR

It was Emerson who observed, more than a hundred years ago, "You have dined, and however scrupulously the slaughterhouse is concealed in the graceful distance of miles, there is complicity."

A PIG IS CLUBBED IN THE HEAD WITH A WRNECH. THE WORKER EXCLAIMS: "Ohhh, motherfucker, die!" WE SEE ANOTHER PIG WHO HAS FALLEN AND CAN'T GET UP; HER LEG WEDGED BETWEEN THE BARS OF A CAGE. A WORKER BEATS HER IN AN EFFORT TO BEING THE PIG TO ITS FEET. THE PIG CANNOT MOVE AND SCREAMS!

For an ethic grown lethargic from a happy appetite for ignorance and indulgence, *out of sight means out of mind.*

TITLE CARD: SEA FOOD

LOBSTERS, WATER POLLUTION ...

NARRATOR

And for those who think eating seafood is "healthier" than land animals, just remember how much irretrievable waste and contaminated sediments are dumped into our oceans. In the past ... oil ... nuclear ... and chemical industries have done little for the protection of marine environments ... and dumping on or *under* the seabed has always proved a convenient place to dispose of inconvenient wastes.

TITLE CARD: COMMERCIAL FISHING

OCEAN TRAWLERS CAPTURING HUGE NETS FULL OF FISH.

NARRATOR

Today's commercial fishers intensify this situation on massive scales. They use vast factory trawlers the size of football fields and advanced electronic equipment to track and catch fish. Huge nets stretch across the ocean, swallowing up everything in their path. These factory trawlers, coupled with our increased appetites for seafood, are *emptying* the oceans of sea life at an alarming pace. Already, thirteen of the seventeen major global fisheries are depleted or in serious decline. The other four are overexploited or fully exploited.<sup>14</sup>

TITLE CARD: DISEASE

WE SEE A BLACK & WHITE PICTURE OF THE DEADLY MICRO-ORGANISM "PFIESTERIA PISCICIDA."

NARRATOR

The recent outbreak of Pfiesteria, a microorganism 1,000 times more potent than cyanide, spawned from millions of gallons of raw hog feces and urine, poured into rivers, lakes, and oceans, turning their ecosystems into unflushed toilets, is proving the most alarming. Threatening sea life and humans alike, Pfiesteria has killed over 1 billion fish, the southeast's largest fishkill on record, and it's spreading. Traces of Pfiesteria have already been found from Long Island to the Florida Gulf, at distances of up to 1,000 miles. In fact, this water-based Pfiesteria invasion stands as one of the worst outbreaks of a virulent microorganism in U.S. history. It is a Level Three Biohazard. Ebola is a Four. AIDS is a two. And this bug mutated as a direct result of our mass consumption of animals, particularly pork. With hog farms fattening millions of pigs for slaughter, grain goes in and waste comes out. This waste finds its way into our oceans and water-supply systems, contaminating the animals that live in it, as well as those that eat from it.<sup>15</sup>

TITLE CARD: WHALING

WE SEE WHALERS HARPOONING WHALES.

NARRATOR

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<sup>14</sup> PETA Factsheet: Wildlife #4, Fishing

<sup>15</sup> Maxim Magazine, October 2001

Finally, whaling. Though the International Whaling Commission prohibited commercial whaling in 1985, many countries continue to kill whales for their so-called "exotic meat." They use harpoons, firearms, blunt hooks, even explosives, or drive them into authorized whaling bays where they are made to beach and can be killed with knives in the shallows.

TITLE CARD: DOLPHINS

FOOTAGE OF A DOLPHIN SLAUGHTER IN FUTO, JAPAN.

NARRATOR

Every winter, between the months of October through March, thousands of dolphins are confined and brutally killed in small towns across Japan. Sounding rods beneath the water's surface interfere with the dolphin's sonar. Once disoriented and enclosed within the nets, the dolphins panic. Fisherman often injure a few captive dolphins with a spear thrust or knife slash ... since dolphins never abandon wounded family members. Mothers and babies call out in distress as they are separated, hoisted up and dragged off ... soon to be mercilessly hacked to death. These are benign and innocent beings ... and they deserve better. Yet here, as they lay stricken and needful, wreathing helplessly on cement floors, they are cut open with machetes and left to slowly suffocate ... convulsing and contorting in the throes of agony ... while school children walk on by. Such images of slaughter and bloody red water clearly show the Japanese government has little respect for the state of the world's oceans with their inhumane methods of fishing ... often in violation of international treaties, laws and conventions designed to protect over-exploiting the oceans ... and the creatures that live in them. Dolphin meat is later sold in markets and restaurants, though often mislabeled as "whale meat."

WE SEE SHOTS OF CLOTHES HANGING IN STORE WINDOWS.

NARRATOR

But as though cruelty toward animals raised for food wasn't enough, we've also found ways of making use of them for all our clothes. Jackets, shoes, belts, gloves, pants, wallets, purses, and so on, the next question is obviously: where do our clothes come from?

TITLE CARD: PART THREE: FOOD

SHOT OF AN OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET IN INDIA.

TITLE CARD LEATHER

NARRATOR

The demand for leather comes primarily from the United States, Germany, and the U.K. Just about everybody wears it, with little or no thought of where it came from.

TITLE CARD India Cows

WE SEE A HERD OF INDIA COWS.

NARRATOR

Thousands of India cows are slaughtered each week for their skins, purchased from poor families in part of rural India who sell them only after the assurance that the animals will live out their lives on farms.

TITLE CARD SHOEING AND ROPING

WE SEE COWS BEING HARSHLY SHOED AND ROPED.

NARRATOR

To relocate the animals to a state where they can legally be killed, since cattle slaughter is forbidden in most of India, the animals must be shoed and roped together in preparation for a harrowing "death march," which could last for several days.

TITLE CARD TRANSPORTATION AND FATIGUE

WE SEE COWS TOO WEAK TO STAND, FALLING OVER ONE ANOTHER, WHILE BEING MOVED INTO TRUCKS.

NARRATION

Forced to walk through the heat and dust without food or water, coupled with the sheer stress of this terrifying experience for them, many of the animals collapse and are unable to continue. Bear in mind that most of the cattle are being placed in a truck for the first time in their lives and are likely to be frightened, especially if they have been handled hastily or roughly by the men loading the trucks. The noise and motion of the truck itself is also a new experience; one which makes them ill. After one or two days inside the truck without food or water, they are

desperately thirsty and hungry, especially since it is normal for such cows to eat frequently throughout the day.<sup>16</sup>

TITLE CARD      TAIL BREAKING

A HANDLER PINCHES A DOWNED COW'S TAIL TO BRING HIM TO ITS FEET.

NARRATOR

But when the cattle become weary and grow faint, the bones in their tails are broken in an effort to get them back up on their feet. This is done by repeatedly pinching the tail in several areas.

TITLE CARD      HANDLERS

MORE TAIL-PINCHING AND NOSE PULLING. A PILE OF WEAKENED COWS LAY INSIDE A TRUCK.

NARRATOR

Handlers must constantly keep the cattle moving, pulling them by nose ropes, twisting their necks, horns, or tails. They lead, or rather *force*, the cattle down embankments and in and out of trucks without ramps, causing injuries like broken pelvises, legs, ribs, and horns.

TITLE CARD      CHILI PEPPER

WE SEE A HANDFUL OF CHILI PEPPER. A HANDLER POINTS TO HIS EYE, THEN THE PEPPER IS RUBBED DIRECTLY INTO THE COW'S EYEBALL.

NARRATOR

Chili pepper and tobacco are also used to keep the animals walking. This practice is done by rubbing the pepper directly into their eyes, in order to stimulate the animal back onto his or her feet.

TITLE CARD      SLAUGHTER

A SLAUGHTERHOUSE IN INDIA. DEAD AND DYING COWS STREWN ABOUT THE GROUNDS. WE SEE THEIR THROATS SLIT AND HEADS CUT OFF.

NARRATOR

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<sup>16</sup> Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 148

And all this *before* the slaughter. As many as half of the animals will already be dead by the time they arrive at the slaughterhouse. But to make the experience even more traumatic and terrifying, they are often killed in *full* view of each other. And instead of the *required* "quick slice" across the throat with a sharp knife, they are generally killed through hacking and sawing with a dull blade.

TITLE CARD TANNING

SHOT OF A TANNERY IN INDIA.

NARRATOR

Afterwards, the skins from these animals are sent to tanneries that use deadly substances like Chromium and other toxins to stop decomposition. Remember, leather *is* dead flesh. It is dead skin, and, therefore, natural for it to decompose and rot away *unless* treated with such potent substances as these. And for people, the health effects of such chemicals in tanneries, in lieu of the continued demand for leather goods, is yet another issue.

TITLE CARD RETAIL

CUSTOMERS TRYING ON LEATHER JACKETS, SHOES, ETC.

NARRATOR

Ultimately, leather from Indian cattle make their way to clothing stores all around the world. Most major chains sell Indian leather ... leather that comes from completely different cows than those we eat.

TITLE CARD FUR

INTERIOR FOOTAGE OF A FUR FARM; FILTHY CAGES; ANIMALS CIRCLING INSIDE, ETC.

NARRATOR

And what about fur? Over 100 million wild animals are murdered for their pelts every year, 25 million in the United States alone. These animals, obtained by hunting and trapping, are kept on fur farms in conditions like these.

TITLE CARD CAGE MADNESS

NARRATOR

Naturally, these undomesticated, wild animals are not accustomed to being caged, and *cage madness* develops when frightened and frustrated animals are driven crazy from the stress of confinement. These wild, free-roaming animals, and their offspring, find themselves unable to live a natural life, can never take even a few steps or feel the earth beneath their feet. Instead, they are reduced to scratching, circling and pacing endlessly.

TITLE CARD            INJURIES AND SLOW DEATH

WE SEE ANIMALS UNABLE TO STAND IN THEIR CAGES; DYING SLOWLY.

NARRATOR

The physical injuries these animals endure on fur farms ... involve broken and exposed bones ... blindness ... ear infections ... dehydration and malnutrition ... exposure to freezing temperatures ... lack of veterinary care ... and slow death.

TITLE CARD            KILLING

AN ANIMAL IS TAKEN FROM A CAGE BY THE NECK AND ANALLY ELECTROCUTED.

NARRATOR

No laws indicate the killing of animals on fur farms, therefore, the least expensive methods are the most appealing. Carbon monoxide poisoning, Strychnine, suffocation, breaking the neck, and anal electrocution are some of the more common methods used. Removed from his or her cage with a heavy neck-pole, the animal is walked past the rows of bodies of slaughtered foxes, sables, raccoons and wolves, among others. Death by anal electrocution is a crude process that requires a probe to be inserted in the rectum while the animal bites down on a metal conductor. Often times this inept procedure must be repeated to actually kill the animal. And the skinned carcasses seen here will later be ground up and fed to the animals still caged.

WE SEE A CHINESE FUR FARM WHERE AN ANIMAL IS SKINNED ALIVE. ONCE THE SKIN IS REMOVED IT LAYS IN A BLOODY HEAP; ITS EYES STILL BLINKING IN SHOCK. WE ALSO SEE FOOTAGE FROM A CANADIAN SEAL HUNT. WE SEE A STUNNED SEAL BLINKING OVER THE CORPSE OF ANOTHER SEAL. SNOW COVERED IN BLOOD. SKINS

IN A PILE ON A BLOCK OF ICE. THE SCENE CONCLUDES IN A FUR STORE WHERE A CUSTOMER LOOKING AT A COAT ASKS: "*How much does this run?*" THE SALESLADY LOOKS AT THE PRICE AND RESPONDS: "*This is \$49,500.*"

TITLE CARD PART FOUR: ENTERTAINMENT

ANOTHER SHOT FROM THE "FESTIVAL OF THE BULLS" IN SPAIN. A BULL'S HORNS ARE LIT ON FIRE AS IT RUNS THROUGH THE STREETS.

NARRATOR

And so we move on to entertainment. Mark Twain once said, "Of all the creatures ever made he (man) is the most detestable. He's the only creature that inflicts pain for sport, *knowing* it to be pain."

TITLE CARD RODEOS

RODEO FOOTAGE.

NARRATOR

In rodeos, bulls and broncos don't buck because they're wild, but because they're in pain. A belt, called a flank strap or a bucking strap, is secured around the animal's body over the genital area. As the animal leaves the chute, a tight jerk on the belt is enough to start him bucking in pain. Apart from other injuries animals incur at rodeos ... such as broken legs ... they are also worked up by being slapped ... teased ... given electric prods ... and otherwise tormented ... to bolt out of the chute in a frenzy.<sup>17</sup>

WE SEE A BULL CLIMB OVER A METAL GATE, TRYING TO FLEE. ANOTHER IS DRAGGED OFF BEHIND A TRUCK. THIS IS FOLLOVED BY A SHOT OF A CHILD RIDING A GOAT AT A RODEO IN AUSTIN, TEXAS.

TITLE CARD ROPING

RODEO FOOTAGE CONTINUOUS.

NARRATOR

Roping, as seen here, involves throwing a rope around the neck of a frightened animal running full speed, jerking the

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<sup>17</sup> Achor, Animal Rights, p. 168.

poor creature to a halt, and slamming him or her to the ground.

TITLE CARD          GAMBLING

HORSE RACING FOOTAGE.      WE SEE THREE HORSES SLAM INTO EACHOTHER AND THE JOCKEY'S THROWN TO THE GROUND.

NARRATOR

Like any other business, dog racing and horse racing are industries motivated by a common denominator: *profit*.

TITLE CARD          FAIR GROUNDS

FOOTAGE OF VARIOUS ANIMALS IN FAIR GROUNDS.

NARRATOR

At fair grounds across the country, animals are used to race, bet with, and spectate over. Training for these events is accomplished by withholding food and sometimes water. These animals ... unfamiliar with their surroundings ... the noise ... the crowds ... even what they're supposed to be doing ... are all-too-often injured and discarded ... in pointless ... trivial ... outlandish contests ... designed to make profits and entertain.

TITLE CARD          HUNTING

HUNTING FOOTAGE.

NARRATOR

Besides loss of habitat, hunting is the number one threat to wildlife today. Hunters kill over 200 million animals every year. Deer, rabbits, and squirrels top the list of desirable targets. There is no denying it, if hunting is a sport it *is* a bloodsport. The targets are living, and they undergo violent deaths.

TITLE CARD          FISHING

FISHING FOOTAGE.

NARRATOR

Fishing is also a death sport, wherein the nonhuman animal suffers. Researchers have distinguished that fish show pain behavior the same way mammals do. Anatomically, physiologically, and biologically, the pain system in fish

is virtually the same as in birds and mammals. In other words, fish are sentient organisms, so of course they feel pain.<sup>18</sup> For those who think fish die "gentler" deaths, consider that their sensory organs are highly developed, their nervous systems complex, their nerve cells very similar to our own, and their responses to certain stimuli immediate and vigorous.<sup>19</sup>

TITLE CARD          CIRCUSES

CIRCUS FOOTAGE.    ELEPHANTS UNDER THE BIG TOP.

NARRATOR

When going to the circus, rarely do we stop for a moment and consider: What *incites* an animal to do something unnatural, even dangerous, such as jumping through flames, balancing on one foot, or diving into water from shaky platforms high in the air? Animal trainers would like for the public to believe that animals are coaxed into such behaviors with the promise of rewards. But the truth is that animals perform because they fear punishment.<sup>20</sup>

A LION TAMMER PUMMELS A LION IN A CAGE, WHILE SHOUTING:  
"Let's go, let's go, let's go."

In essence, circuses condemn animals who are wild by nature to live out their days isolated in tiny, barren cages, denied normal exercise and socialization, shuttled around from place to place, and shackled in chains for up to 95% of their lives.

TITLE CARD          TRAINING

WE SEE A NEWS CLIPPING WHERE THE INTERVIEWER PERKILY SAYS:  
"Elephants are taught to perform with positive reinforcement, and never hit." A CIRCUS "ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER" REASSURES US: "Never hit. Never, never, never will you see anyone use the ankus as anything other than a guide or a tool." THIS IS FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL SHOTS OF CIRCUS ANIMALS BEING STRUCK REPEATEDLY.

NARRATOR

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<sup>18</sup> Dr. Donald Bloom, Welfare Advisor British Gov., PETA

<sup>19</sup> Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 174.

<sup>20</sup> Achor, *Animal Rights*, p. 164.

Dominance, subservience, and pain are integral parts of the training process.

WE SEE TRAINING FOOTAGE INSIDE A BARN. A HANDLER BEATS AN ELEPHANT MERCILESSLY, ALL THE WHILE EXCLAIMING:

HANDLER

Hurt him. Don't touch him! Make him scream! If you're scared to hurt him, don't come in this room. When I say rip his fuckin' --- you know how I am about touchin' him, right? So if I say rip his head off ... rip his fuckin' foot off, what does that mean? Because it's very important to do it, right? When he starts squirming too fuckin' much - both fuckin' hands - BOOM! Right under that chin! Sit ... and he better back up. Then when he fucks around too much, don't grab that leg ... you fuckin' sink that hook and give everything you've got ... and when it's in there go, ee-ee-ee-ee!!! And he's gonna start screaming. When you hear that screaming, then you know you've got their attention a little fuckin' bit! Right here in the barn. Can't do it on the road. She's gonna fuckin' do what I want. Aand that's just the fuckin' way it is. Alright, let's go. Becky! Becky!!!

BECKY THE ELEPHANT BEGINS SCREAMING.

HANDLER

You motherfucker. Get your motherfuckin' --- get up here! Motherfucker! Come here, Becky. Move up, Becky. Move up, Becky. Alright, tubs. Tubs! Hey, get loony. Hey, Becky. Go on, move up. Hey, I'm alive. I'm not a dead man. Move up. Come in line. Come in line, Becky. Motherfucker! Move, motherfucker!

BECKY BEGINS SCREAMING AGAIN AS THE HANDLER BEATS HER.

HANDLER

Yeah, come in line. Come here, Tommy. Why do they have to go through that because you motherfuckers don't want to listen?

THE ANKUS IS USED TO GRAB THE ELEPHANT BY THE ELBOW. IT HISSES AND SQUEELS!

HANDLER

Back up. You got a pussy-ass fuckin' attitude, it's just the way they die.

WE SEE SHOTS OF WOUNDED ELEPHANTS, WITH KNOTS ON THEIR LEGS, SCARS ON THEIR HEADS, AND SWOLLEN ANKLES.

NARRATOR

We know animals feel. They feel fear, loneliness, and pain, just like humans do. What animal would choose to spend their entire life in captivity ... if they had a choice?

TITLE CARD RETALIATION

FOOTAGE FROM A CIRCUS IN HAWAII WHERE AN ELEPHANT ATTACKS TWO HANDLERS DURING A LIVE SHOW AND ESCAPES FROM THE TENT. PANIC AND SCREAMING ENSUES AMONG THE CROWD. THE ELEPHANT IS GUNNED DOWN AND KILLED IN THE STREET. A POLICEMAN SAYS: "On the count of three. One. Two. Three. Take him. You've got to shoot." SOMEONE IN THE BACKGROUND YELLS: "Fuckin' assholes!" THE ELEPHANT DIES AGAINST A BLUE CAMERO.

TITLE CARD Zoos

ZOO FOOTAGE.

NARRATION

Zoos. Are zoos valuable educational and conservation institutions? Sure, zoos are interesting, but they are only educational in the sense that they teach a disregard for the natures of other living beings. Besides, what can we learn about wild animals by viewing them in captivity? Zoos exist because we are intrigued by exotic things, and to zoo-goers, zoo animals are just that: *things*. In both cases, at circuses or zoos, wild and exotic animals are captured, caged, transported and trained ... to do what humans want them to do.

TITLE CARD BULLFIGHTING

BULLFIGHTING FOOTAGE.

NARRATOR

At best, the term "bullfighting" is a misnomer, as there is little competition between the sword of a nimble *matador* (which is Spanish for killer), and a confused, maimed, psychologically tormented, and physically debilitated bull. Many prominent former bullfighters report that bulls are

intentionally debilitated with tranquilizers and laxatives, beatings to the kidneys, and heavy weights hung around their necks for weeks before a fight. Some of the animals are placed in darkness for 48 hours before the confrontation, then are released blinded into the bright arena. In a typical event, the bull enters and is approached by men who exhaust and frustrate him by running him in circles and tricking him into collisions. When the bull is tired and out of breath, he is approached by *picadors*, who drive lances into his back and neck muscles, twisting and gouging to ensure a significant amount of blood loss, and impairing the bull's ability to lift his head. Then come the *banderilleros* who distract and dart around the bull while plunging more lances into him. Weakened from blood loss, they run the bull in more circles until he is dizzy and stops chasing. Finally, the matador, this "killer," appears and, after provoking a few exhausted charges from the dying animal, tries to kill the bull with his sword. And this bloody form of amusement ... is bullfighting.<sup>21</sup> The pleasure derived from all these activities and sports (a communion with nature, some would say), can be secured without harming or killing animals. The commercial exploitation of wildlife erroneously assumes that the value of wild animals is reducible to their *utility* relative to human interests, especially economic interests. But wild animals are not a renewable resource, having value only relative to human interests.<sup>22</sup>

MONTAGE OF ANIMALS IN ENTERTAINMENT. WE SEE A PILE OF DEAD SEALS FROM A HARVEST IN ST. PAUL'S ISLAND.

NARRATOR

That perception can only be that of a speciesist. Nevertheless, these practices exist only because we do not take seriously the *interests* of other animals. In this light, are humans not the most callous speciesists of all?

TITLE CARD PART FIVE: SCIENCE

WE SEE TESTS CONDUCTED ON MONKEYS, MICE, HAMPSTERS, DOGS, CATS, ETC.

TITLE CARD Vivisection

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<sup>21</sup> PETA Factsheet, Animals in Entertainment #6

<sup>22</sup> Tom Regan, *A Case for Animal Rights*, p. 395

NARRATOR

The term vivisection is used to apply to all types of experiments on living animals and is said to be a form of medical science. The reason for experimentation of this type is to allegedly discover cures for human ailments and illnesses. But those who hope to find remedies for human ills by inflicting deliberate sufferings on animals commit two fundamental errors in understanding. The first is the assumption that results obtained on animals are applicable to mankind. The second concerns the inevitable fallacy of experimental science in respect to the field of organic life. Since animals react differently from human beings ... every new product or method tried out on animals must be tried out again on man ... through careful clinical tests, before it can be considered safe. This rule knows no exceptions. Tests on animals are not only dangerous because they lead to wrong conclusions but, furthermore, they retard clinical investigation - which is the only valid kind. Just remember the fact that any disease deliberately provoked is unlike any disease that arises spontaneously.

TITLE CARD            MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

WE SEE MONKEYS AND CATS BEING ELECTROCUTED, RABBITS WREATHING ON OPERATING TABLES, PIGS BEING BLOW-TORCHED, ETC.

NARRATOR

Unfortunately, such methods still sail today under the flag of science - which is an insult to *true science*, as well as human intelligence. And so vivisection applies to medical experiments ... done with the administration of noxious substances ... electric or traumatic shocks ... unanesthetized operations ... burns ... drawn-out deprivations of food and drink ... physical and psychological tortures ... that lead to mental imbalance ... infections ... and so on.

WE SEE A BABOON STRAPPED TO A TABLE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

NARRATOR

Head injury research involves partially or fully conscious baboons strapped down with restraints ... and their heads cemented into a metal helmet, which will be thrust at a 60 degree angle at a force of up to 1,000 Gs. The purpose of this experiment is to simulate auto crashes ... football ...

boxing ... and other head related injuries. And this process is often repeated again and again on the same animals.

TITLE CARD

MILITARY RESEARCH

WE SEE MOR MONKEYS UNDERGOING VARIOUS STAGES OF EXPERIMENTATION.

NARRATOR

And finally, military research. This one speaks for itself. From sending monkeys into outer space, and testing atomic blasts on helpless dogs, to exposing primates to nuclear radiation. Twenty years ago, the number of animals dying of tortures through the practice of vivisection was astronomical, estimated at 400,000 per day world wide, and growing at an annual rate of five percent. Today that number is almost beyond comprehension. 19,000 per minute. 10 billion per year. Some uneducated persons pretend to know that less intelligent animals don't feel pain the same way we do. In truth, we know very little about how specific animals may "feel," except that they must also submit to the universal law that causes every organism dying by unnatural means to suffer greatly before that final release. But it's nonsense to say that the animals do not suffer because they have a lower order of intelligence. Pain is pain, conveyed by nerves to the brain, and there are other nerves than those of intelligence ... nerves such as sight, smell, touch, and hearing. And in some animals these nerves are much more highly developed than in man.<sup>23</sup> We know that there has never been an epoch in which we could learn something about the physiology of man by torturing animals; we only learned something about animals. And if there is something we can learn from them on the psychological level, it is not by means of steel or electricity, much less so through psychic violences. The systematic torture of sentient beings, whatever the pretext and in whatever form, cannot achieve anything more than it already has: to show us what is the lowest point of debasement man can reach. If that's what we want to know.<sup>24</sup>

TITLE CARD

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<sup>23</sup> Hans Ruesch, *Slaughter of the Innocent*, p. 108, 68-69

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, p. 200

"As long as there are slaughterhouses, there will be  
battlefields."  
- Leo Tolstoy

A MONTAGE OF IMAGES FROM THE FIVE PARTS DISCUSSED IN THE  
FILM: PETS, FOOD, CLOTHING, ENTERTAINMENT AND SCIENCE.

NARRATOR

Ignorance is the speciesist's first line of defense. Yet it is easily breached by anyone with the time and determination to find out the truth. Ignorance has prevailed so long only because people *do not want* to find out the truth. "Don't tell me, you'll spoil my dinner" is the usual reply to any attempt to tell someone *just* how that dinner was produced. Even people who are aware that the traditional family farm has been taken over by big business interests ... that their clothes come from slaughtered cows, that their entertainment means the suffering and death of millions of animals ... and that some *questionable* experiments go on in laboratories, still cling to a vague belief that conditions cannot be *too bad*, or else the government or the animal welfare societies would have done something about it. But it is not the inability to find out what is going on as much as a desire *not to know* about facts that may lie heavy on one's conscience that is responsible for this *lack* of awareness - - after all, the victims of whatever it is that goes on in all these awful places are not members of one's own group.<sup>25</sup>

ANOTHER MONTAGE SHOWS HEALTHY ANIMALS IN THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

NARRATOR

It all comes down to pain and suffering. Not intelligence, not strength, not social class or civil right. Pain and suffering are in themselves bad and should be prevented or minimized, irrespective of the race, sex, or species of the being that suffers.<sup>26</sup> We are all animals of this planet. We are all creatures. And non-human animals experience sensations just like we do. They too are strong, intelligent, industrious, mobile, and evolutionary. They too are capable of growth and adaptation. Like us, first and foremost, they are earthlings. And like us, they are *surviving*. Like us, they also seek their own comfort

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<sup>25</sup> Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 217

<sup>26</sup> Singer, *Animal Liberation*, p. 17

rather than discomfort. And like us, they *express* degrees of emotion. In short, like us, they are alive; most of them being, in fact, vertebrae, *just* like us. As we look back on how *essential* animals are to human survival; our absolute dependence on them (for companionship ... food ... clothing ... sport and entertainment ... as well as medical and scientific research), ironically ... we only see mankind's complete *disrespect* for these non-human providers. Without a doubt, this must be what it is ... to "bite the hand that feeds us." In fact, we have actually stomped and spit on it. Now we are faced with the inevitable aftermath. This is evident in health reports due to our over-excessive consumption of animals. Cancer, heart disease, Osteoporosis, strokes, kidney stones, Anemia, diabetes, and more. Even our food has now been effected ... and at its very source.

WE SEE MEAT PRODUCTION PLANTS.

NARRATOR

With antibiotics used to promote weight gain in animals (who can't gain weight under the stressful, overcrowded living conditions in factory farms); with the over-use of pesticides and insecticides; or artificial hormones (designed to increase milk production, litter size and frequency); with artificial colors, herbicides, larvicides, synthetic fertilizers, tranquilizers, growth and appetite stimulants ... it's no wonder that Mad Cow Disease ... Foot and Mouth Disease ... Pfiesteria ... and a host of other animal related abnormalities have been unleashed on the human public. Nature is not responsible for these actions. We are.

WE SEE DEFORESTATION, POLLUTION, ETC.

NARRATOR

So a change is inevitable. Either we make it ourselves, or we will be forced to make it by Nature Itself. The time has come for each of us to reconsider our eating habits, our traditions, our lifestyles and fashions, and above all, our way of thinking.

WE SEE ANIMALS AT PLAY.

NARRATOR

So, if there is any truth to the age-old saying, "What goes around, comes around," then what do *they* get for their

pain? Do we even give it a second thought? If what goes around comes around, what *do* they get for their pain? They are earthlings. They have the right to be here just as much as humans do. Perhaps the answer is found in another age-old saying ... and one equally true: We reap just what we sow.

THE FILM'S CLOSING MONTAGE SHOWS IMAGES OF NATURE, ANIMALS AND HUMANKIND IN A PEACEFUL SETTING.

NARRATOR

So of course, animals feel, and of course they experience pain. After all, has nature endowed these wonderful animals with well-springs of sentiment so that they should not feel ... or do animals have nerves in order to be insensitive? Reason demands a better answer. But one thing is absolutely certain: animals used for food, used for clothing, used for entertainment, and in scientific experiments — and all the oppression that is done to them under the sun — they all die from pain. Each and every one. Isn't it enough that animals the world over live in permanent retreat from human progress and expansion? And for many species ... there is simply nowhere else to go. It seems the fate of many animals is either to be unwanted by man ... or wanted too much. We enter as lords of the earth bearing strange powers of terror and mercy alike ... [But] Human beings [should] love animals as ... the knowing love the innocent, and the strong love the vulnerable. When we wince at the suffering of animals, that feeling speaks well of us even when we ignore it, and those who dismiss love for our fellow creatures as mere sentimentality overlook a good and important part of our humanity.<sup>27</sup> But it takes nothing away from a human to be kind to an animal. And it is actually within us to grant them a happy life ... and a long one. On the heath, King Lear asked Gloucester: "How do you see the world?" And Gloucester, who is blind, answered: "I see it feelingly." I see it feelingly. Three primary life forces exist on this planet: Nature, Animals and Humankind. We are the Earthlings. Make the connection.

WE SEE A FNAL SHOT OF EARTH SPINNING SILENTLY IN SPACE.

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<sup>27</sup> Matthew Scully, *Dominion*, introduction.