

Module code: MOD011331	Version: 1 Date Amended: 11/Apr/2025
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1. Module Title
Ethics of Animal Use

2a. Module Leader
Max Norman

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	Animal Science Animal Management (Pet Behaviour and Welfare) Animal Management (Zoo and Wildlife Conservation) Conservation and Community Engagement		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description
This module explores the complex relationship between humans and animals, drawing on insights from philosophical ethics to help us understand how and why we interact with animals the way we do. Throughout this module, you'll be encouraged to appreciate a wide range of views, both historical and social and critically evaluate ethical arguments about how animals are used and their rights. You'll be introduced to a range of animal uses, the concepts of consciousness, sentience and suffering; as well as the development of legislation relating to animals in society. By the end of this module, you'll gain a strong foundation of knowledge that you can use to apply ethical reasoning to real-life situations involving animals and reflect on broader challenges like compassion fatigue and moral injury, especially relevant in fields like animal care, healthcare and conservation.
6b. Outline Content
Introduction to ethical theories and the application of these to the use of animals in society. Introduction to consciousness and sentience within different species and their relationship to pain and suffering. A range of examples of historical and modern animal use and portrayal, to include biomedical and other forms of research. Relevant developments in scientific knowledge and technologies in modern society. The development of animal welfare and other legislation in the UK in response to the application of ethical concepts to human-animal interactions. Impacts of animal work and ethical responsibility on professionals and volunteers such as compassion fatigue and moral injury.
6c. Key Texts/Literature
The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/
6d. Specialist Learning Resources
None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand and compare the principal philosophical views applied to animal ethics.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Appreciate the importance of ethical thinking in animal welfare science for the development of informed opinion.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate scientific and ethical principles to different audiences.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Use AI tools in education and work with intellectual integrity.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	36	1-4	Lectures
Other teacher managed learning	0	None	None
Student managed learning	114	1-4	Self directed learning
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1,2,4	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

500-word critique of AI generated summary of a scientific paper with an ethical focus

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-4	70 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

2000-word article about a scientific paper with an ethical focus for a specified (e.g. lay) audience

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]