

Some vocabulary

instrumental good/bad (instrumental value/disvalue):

intrinsic good/bad (intrinsic value/disvalue):

wrong/permissible:

utilitarianism: (not a full definition) what makes actions morally wrong or morally permissible is how much moral goodness or badness they cause

Singer's argument

1. There is no intrinsic, morally relevant difference between a human experiencing x and an animal having the exact same experience.
2. So, if an animal and a human have experiences of the same type, to the same degree, then these experiences have the same *intrinsic* (dis)value.
3. Some animals can have experiences that are intrinsically good, or intrinsically bad, when had by human beings.
4. Thus...

- i. Come up with the most plausible morally relevant (intrinsic) difference between a human experiencing x and an animal having the same experience (try to show that 1 is false).

- ii. Using your answer to number (i), articulate a conditional that states when the experiences of one being are more morally (dis)valuable than the experiences (of the same type and degree) of another being. It might look something like:

If being x is _____ compared to being y , then the pain of being x is morally more bad than the pain of being y .

- iii. Is the conditional from (ii) true? Why or why not?

Conditionals

conditional: a universal claim about all members of some category, or a general claim about every time some proposition is true

In class, we'll only express conditionals using "If ... then..." "Whenever ..." or "All"

If something is a human, then it is an animal.
Whenever Fred goes to the store, he buys milk.
All kittens are cute.

antecedent: the category or proposition that a conditional makes a universal claim about

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consequent: what a conditional asserts about the category/proposition in its antecedent

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counterexample: a counterexample to a conditional shows that the conditional is false. A counterexample must: