Animals and us

Our hypocrisy

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DO GREAT apes, dolphins, parrots, and other animals have certain cognitive characteristics that entitle them to be accorded greater moral consideration and legal protection? A considerable literature has so argued in recent times. The central idea behind this enterprise is the notion that non-humans have mental characteristics that are similar to ours and should be granted the same right to a life free from exploitation. This approach holds that, through reason and empathy, we can understand the cognitive states of other species and that some animals have mental states that are comparable to our own.

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Temple Grabin

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Oh hyena, don’t give me reasons why you’re eating me (Ohhyena)