

Governing for Life: How Officials Can End Animal-Abuse Policy, Annihilation of Nature, and Resulting Human Misery by Upholding the Constitution and Its Stated Values

**A free background paper from Responsible Policies for Animals
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It is still possible for the United States to fulfill the promise of its founding documents, their Enlightenment principles, and the ongoing American Revolution, despite today's enormous miseries, injustices, and struggles and counterrevolutionary forces of "the right." The Constitution, which all officeholders swear to uphold, provides the means and principles to put the nation on a far better trajectory than the current life-destroying one. Extreme economic inequality, persistent discrimination based on skin color, sex, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, ability, age, and other factors, environmental degradation, rampant physical and mental health problems – all are rooted in policies people can change through political engagement.

Existing policies fall short in upholding the core values articulated in the Constitution – liberty, justice, equality, defense, tranquility, and the general welfare – because they are rooted in false and harmful beliefs about human nature, other animals, and the web of life and favor powerful economic interests and elites over human beings and the living world. Among the false and harmful beliefs that have produced policy ranging from deficient to disastrous:

- ▶ Human beings are naturally violent toward those outside of their immediate personal sphere.
- ▶ Human beings are omnivorous by nature, having evolved as "hunter-gatherers."
- ▶ Human beings are innately entitled to put to their use any being, thing, or substance on Earth.
- ▶ Nonhuman animals do not think, feel, care about others, or practice morality; only human beings do.
- ▶ Human beings exist at the pinnacle of a "great chain of being" and of a "food chain."
- ▶ Supernatural forces, rather than quadrillions of Earth's beings, made the living world what it was before human beings existed.
- ▶ Civilization improves human beings' quality of life and their ability to experience fulfillment as compared with humans' original lifeway naked and weaponless on the African savanna.

Based on these and other related beliefs and ideologies, civilization instituted policies that maximize human misery by perpetually authorizing and rewarding abuse of nonhuman animals and their natural homes. The process leading to this intractable state of affairs originates with the Animal-Abuse Revolution, which started more than 50,000 years ago with organized hunting with manufactured weapons.

The process intensifies with the Agricultural Revolution, made possible by our species' devastation of their natural predators and other dangerous animals, and designation of many other nonhuman animals as enemies due to their attraction to human crops and stored foods. It intensifies further with the Industrial Revolution, making destruction of nonhuman animals and their natural homes more rapid and increasing the poisoning of them and their homes through toxic chemicals, fuels



and exhaust, mineral extraction, ever-more-rapid tree-felling, biomedical industries, ever-more-powerful weapons, and more.

Policy changes that are only marginal, and do not address root causes of problems, enable human misery, animal abuse, and our species' annihilation of nature to continue and intensify. Basing policy on the full scope of what science reveals about human nature and origins, other animals, and the web of life, it is possible to improve policy beyond recognition especially in these crucial life-and-death matters:

- ▶ human food, nutrition, physical & mental health, and moral and spiritual wellbeing;
- ▶ human medicine and the medical-care system;
- ▶ war, terrorism, and other violence;
- ▶ poverty, economic inequality, social status, and social wellbeing;
- ▶ crime & punishment;
- ▶ animal abuse;
- ▶ our species' annihilation of nature.

In addition to www.RPAforAll.org, these Responsible Policies for Animals (RPA) publications elaborate on relationships among human misery, animal abuse, annihilation of nature, and public policy: white papers "Schooling for Life: How K-12 Schools Can Help End Our Species' Millennia-Long Animal-Abuse Policy, Annihilation of Nature, and Resulting Human Misery" and "The Case for Ending 'Animal Science' Documented"; brochure *Animal Abuse: It's Why We Suffer*; and "Beyond Humanism, Toward a New Animalism," RPA Director David Cantor's essay in *Circles of Compassion: Essays Connecting Issues of Justice*.

RPA is glad to consult on any matter related to the foregoing and to provide sources on any related matter. Many sources are provided in the above-named publications. RPA appreciates any suggestions for improving this message to people in government.

First Edition January 2017
Revised June 2017

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