

Lesson 3.1 Glossary

A

Activist – An especially active, vigorous advocate of a cause, esp. a political cause.

Animal rights – A philosophy that animals have the same rights as humans and that they should not be used for human consumption.

Animal welfare – A philosophy that animals should be treated in a kind and caring manner.

B

Biotechnology – Technology concerning the application of biological and engineering techniques to microorganisms, plants, and animals, sometimes used in the narrower sense of genetic engineering.

C

Cloning – A cell, cell product, or organism that is genetically identical to the unit or individual from which it was derived.

Cold-blooded – Referring to certain animals whose blood temperature depends on the environment, e.g. fish and snakes.

Confinement operation – A production system where animals are raised in a relatively small area. Usually, the environment is controlled for the animals' comfort.

Controversy – A prolonged public dispute, debate, or contention; disputation concerning a matter of opinion.

Cruelty – The state or quality of being cruel.

D

Dilemma – Any difficult or perplexing situation or problem.

Dominion – The power or right of governing and controlling; sovereign authority.

Downer animal – 1. An animal which, in transit in a truck or railroad car, has fallen or lain down. 2. A diseased animal unable to get up.

E

Embryo transfer – The removal of developing embryos from one female and their transfer into the uterus of another; it usually involves the superovulation of superior females and the transfer of their embryos in an attempt to increase the number of superior offspring.

Ethical – Pertaining to or dealing with morals or the principles of morality; pertaining to right and wrong in conduct.

Ethics – A system of moral principles.

Extremist – A supporter or advocate of extreme doctrines or practices.

F

Farrowing crate – A crate or cage in which a sow is placed at time of farrowing. The crate is so constructed as to prevent the sow from turning around or crushing the newborn pigs as she lies down.

H

Humane – Characterized by tenderness, compassion, and sympathy for people and animals, especially for the suffering or distressed.

I

Inhumane – Not humane; lacking humanity, kindness, compassion, et cetera.

Insect – An animal of the class Insecta. They have three body parts and six legs.

Invertebrate – Any animal with no spinal column.

Issue – A point, matter, or dispute, the decision of which is of special or public importance.

L

Laboratory animal – An animal that is raised for the purpose of being used for laboratory experimentation.

M

Mammal – Any vertebrate of the class Mammalia, having the body more or less covered with hair, nourishing the young with milk from the mammary glands, and, with the exception of the egg-laying monotremes, giving birth to live young.

P

PETA – People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Philosophy – A system of principles for guidance in practical affairs.

R

Rights – A moral, ethical, or legal principle considered as an underlying cause of truth, justice, morality, or ethics.

V

Values – Relative worth, merit, or importance.

Vegan – A vegetarian who omits all animal products from the diet.

Vegetarian – One who, because of cultural reasons or personal conviction, abstains from eating meat.

Vertebrate – An animal with a spinal column or backbone, such as fishes, birds, mammals, and so on.

W

Warm-blooded – Any animal, such as a bird or mammal, whose body temperature is warmer than its surrounding medium.

Welfare – The good fortune, health, happiness, prosperity, etc., of a person, group, or organization; well-being.