

Ethics – different attitudes to fish welfare depending on the situation?

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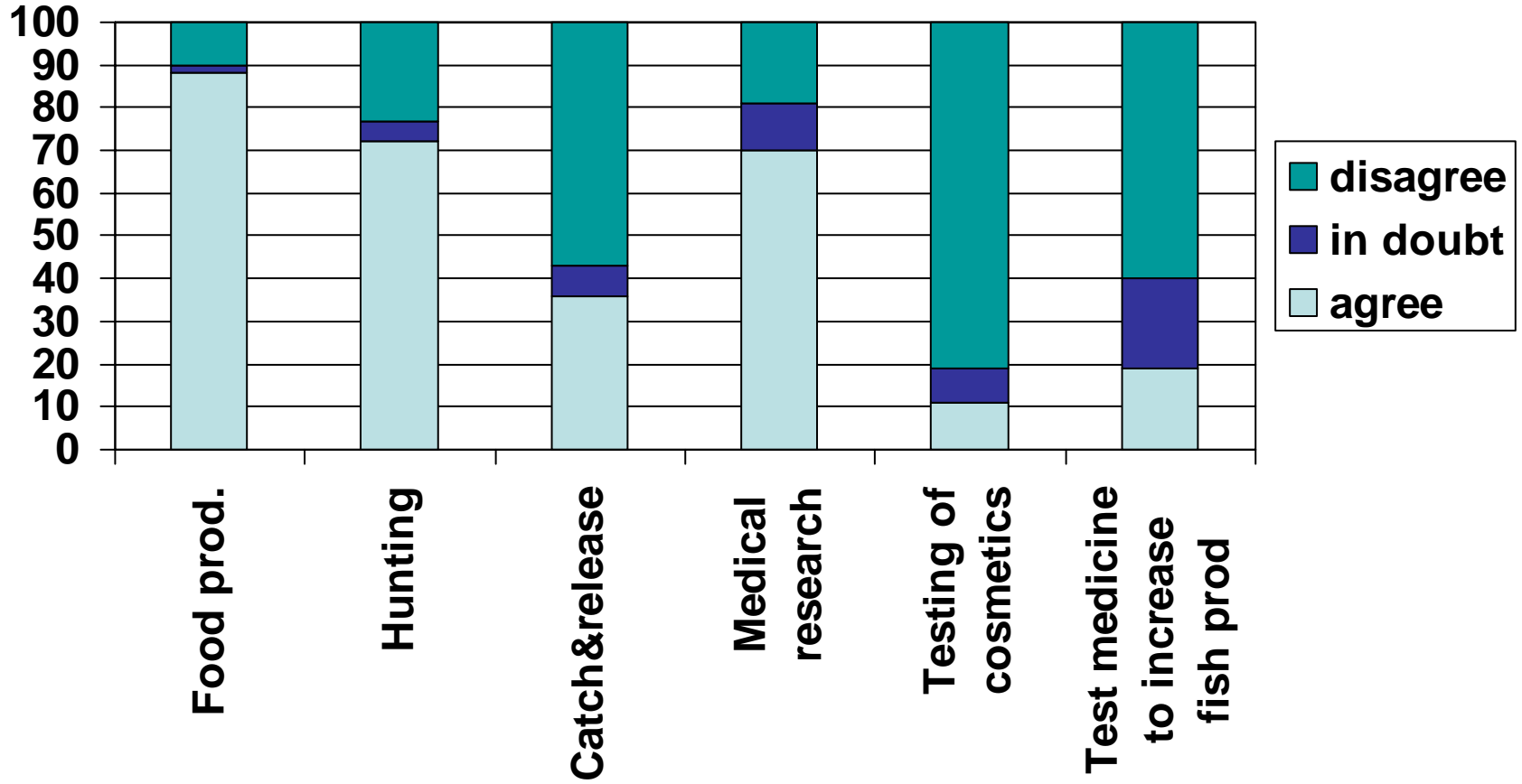
VESO

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- Public attitudes to animals
- The basis for a moral judgment
- Five situations:
 - Fisheries
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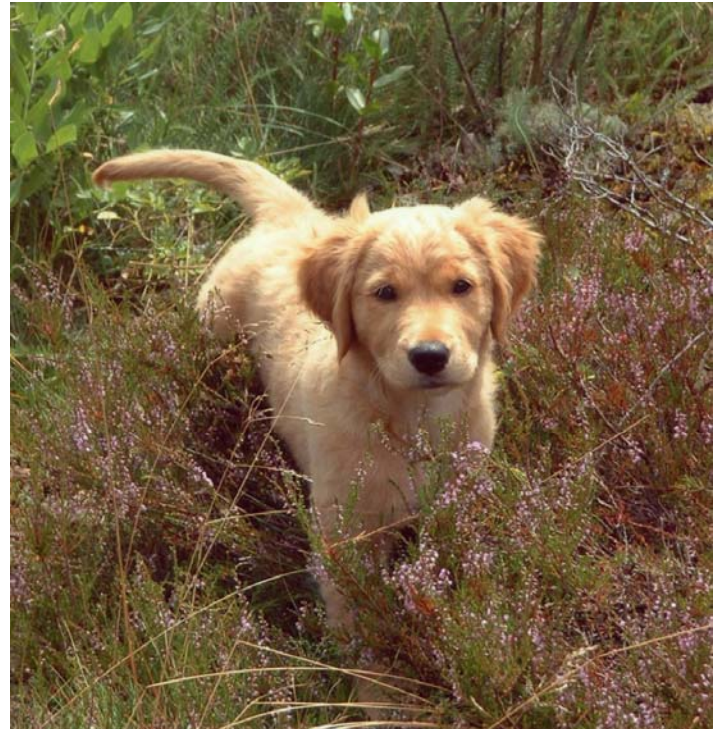
Public attitudes to animals

is it acceptable to use animals for....?



Attitudes to animals depend on - likes and dislikes

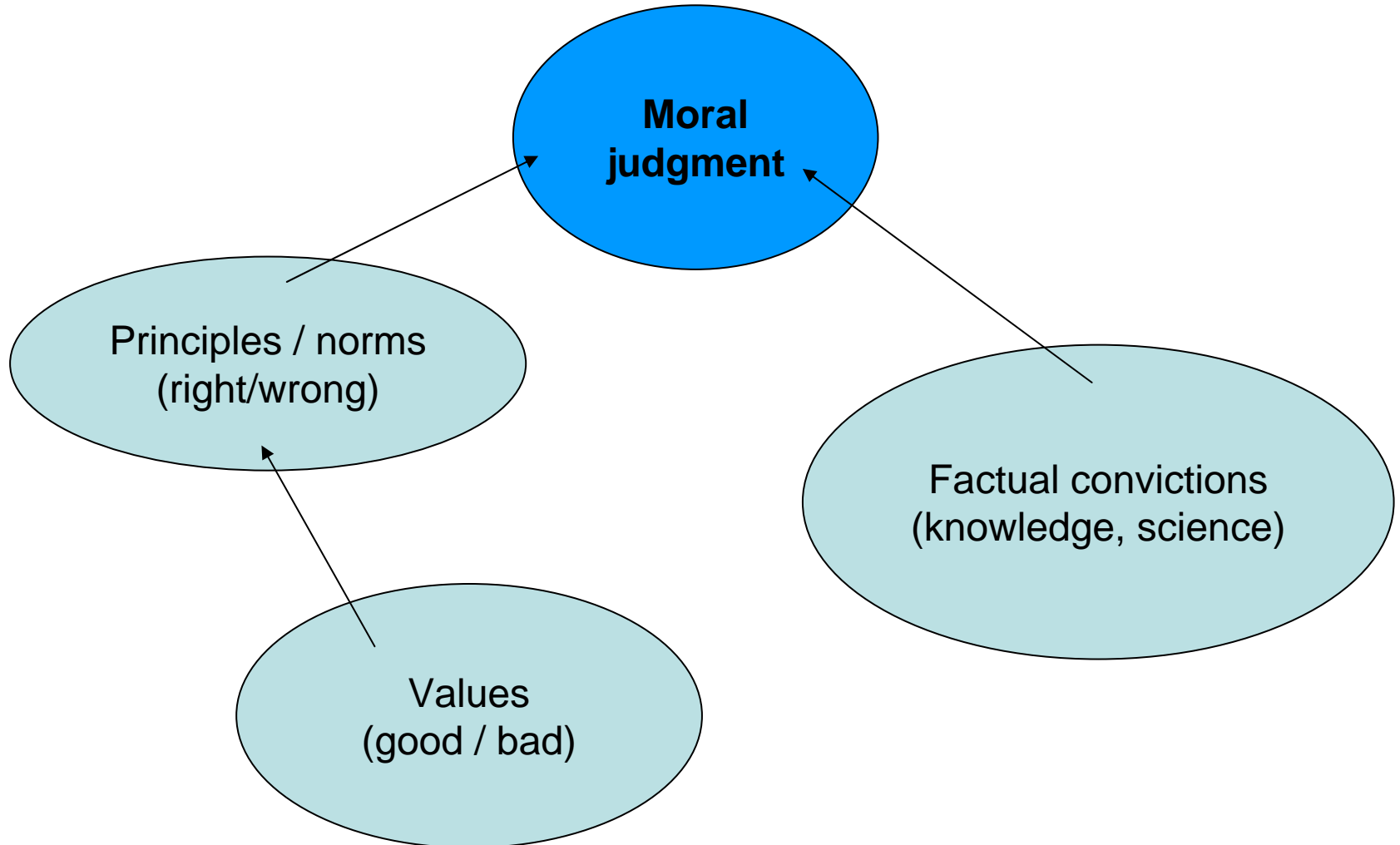
- Familiarity
- Cuteness and recognition of emotions
- Beauty
- Size
- Fear
- Disgust



FISH HAVE FEW ADVANTAGES

A moral judgment

- is more than an opinion



Values (what is good and bad)

E.g.

- Respect for life
- Equality and justice
- Freedom
- Happiness
- Truth
- Honour
- Good health
- Family life
- Friendship
- Concern for others, etc.

Attitudes reflects values.

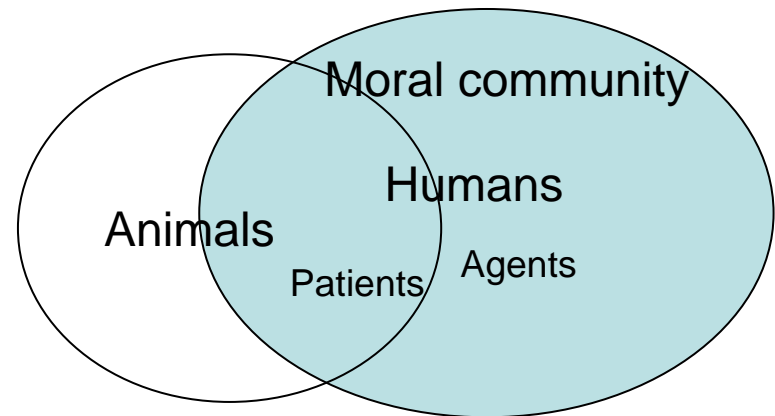
Most values are shared with others. Priorities differ between cultures, persons and during one's life

Norms / principles (right and wrong)

- It is wrong to
- We ought to ...
- Precautionary principle (benefit of the doubt)
- Sustainable use of resources
- It is wrong to cause harm, and
 - worse to cause it deliberately or
 - without a very good reason
- Do your best

Concepts

- The moral community
 - Basis of "membership"
 - Direct/indirect duties



The right act:

- Best consequences, in the long run
- Respecting individual integrity and rights

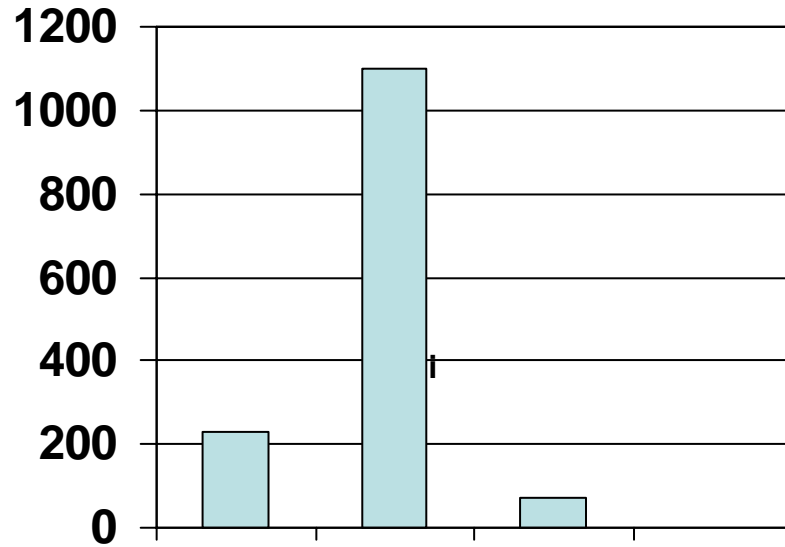
Facts

- Fish physiology and sentience
- Number of fish affected
- Cost to fish
- Human benefit
- Can harm be avoided? Alternatives?

”Facts” – fish sentience

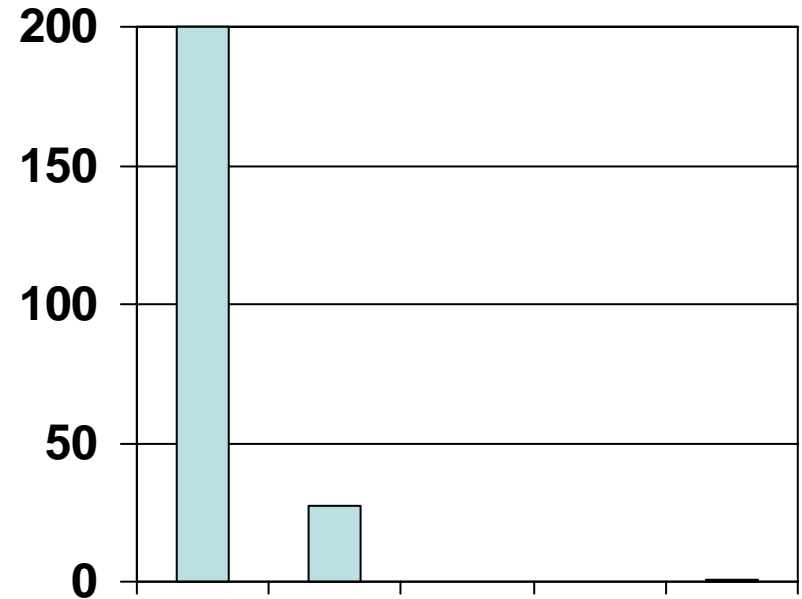
- Affective states of pain, fear and stress are likely to be experienced in fish in similar ways as in tetrapods (Chandroo, Duncan, Moccia 2004)
- It is unplausible that fish can experience pain or other emotions (Rose 2002)
- Fish are protected by animal welfare legislation

Facts – number of fish



Norwegian fisheries 2003

Mill ind, estimated



Mill ind

What do we do to fish: Fisheries

Food production

Human control mainly restricted to the death phase

Few methods allow individual handling

By-catch which is wasted

- Trawl (trål): Exhaustion, skin damage, compression, pressure. Hours. No individual handling
- Danish seine (snurrevad): Less harm
- Purse seining (snurpenot): Less harm
- Gillnet (garn): struggle, suffocation. Hours
- Bottom longline (line): Struggle, pain? Hours-day
- Hand line / jigg: Struggle, pain. Minutes
- Fish trap (ruse): No physical harm

What we do to fish: Fish farming

Food production

Human control from hatching to death

- Artificial environment – restrictions on natural behaviour

- Welfare problems include:

 - Bad water quality

 - Diseases & deformities

 - Stress at handling & slaughter

No food purposes: Pleasure

- Catch and release in angling
 - Kind to the fish?OR
 - Fun at the fish' expense?
 - Flight response, exhaustion, pain, mortality after release
- Ornamental fish
 - Often wild caught
 - Number of imports indicates high mortality
 - Inproper environment, due to owners lack of knowledge
 - Genetics



Fish in scientific experiments

- Purpose: Increase knowledge to the benefit of
- Other fish (e.g. better vaccines, improved fish welfare)
 - Economy of fish farming
 - Humans and nature (e.g. toxic effects of chemicals)
 - Science (knowledge of biological mechanisms, behaviour, etc.)

So, then, should the focus be on the welfare of fish ...

- In commercial fisheries: because of the very high number of individuals
- In fish farming: because of our extended obligations to animals we keep, and the high number of individuals
- Used for pleasure: because the benefit is not in proportion to the harm

Rather than be concerned about fish used in experiments?

What is special about the experiment situation?

According to R. Ryder, because

We deliberately cause the animal problems/pain that otherwise would not have occurred

The benefits that could justify this

may or **may not** occur sometime in the future

Certain harm now is to be weighed against uncertain benefit in the future

Worse to cause harm deliberately than unintentionally

Is it more fair to say that we conduct experiments on animals because we have the power to do so, rather than try to justify it morally?

Applying the 3 Rs

Replacement, Reduction, Refinement

- **Fisheries:** Avoid the worst methods? Utilize caught fish better, reduce by-catch by more selective equipment, refine by more careful handling, develop large scale methods to kill fish humanely
- **Fish farming:** Huge potential for refinement, a win-win situation for all stakeholders
- **Angling: Catch and release:** Primarily an ethical question
- **Ornamental fish:** Refinement by information to aquarists
- **Experimental fish:** That's what this conference is all about

Summary

- Attitudes do vary with the situation
- Polls probably reflect peoples gut feelings rather than well considered moral stands, but should not be ignored
- Values, norms and factual convictions are parts of a moral judgment.
- Thus, the relative weight put on fish welfare may vary with the situation, and is not necessarily inconsistent.
- The 3 Rs may be a useful approach for care of fish in other areas