

# Advocating for the Devil: bees, jumping spiders and the Emperor's new clothes

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*Growing and Protecting New Zealand*



# Advocatus Diaboli



- Symbolic
  - Uncover flaws in ...
  - Karl Popper
1. Understand
  2. Limits
  3. Non-sentience

# 1. Common understanding

- Having power of perception by the senses
- *Gro ba* (to go) toward pleasure, away from pain
- Capable of experiencing positive and negative states ... aware of their feelings and emotions ... not commodities
- Philosophy, science (didn't take people with them)
- Descartes & Watson

# Descartes – lost in translation?

- *Bete-machine* ... ‘totally without feeling’?
- ... *all the things that which dogs, horses and monkeys are made to do, are merely expressions of their fear, their hope, or their joy; and consequently they can do these things without any thought*

Kenny (1970)



# Behaviourism

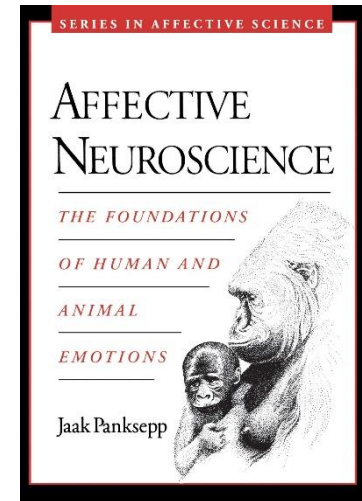
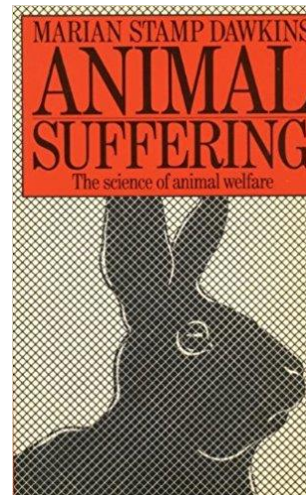
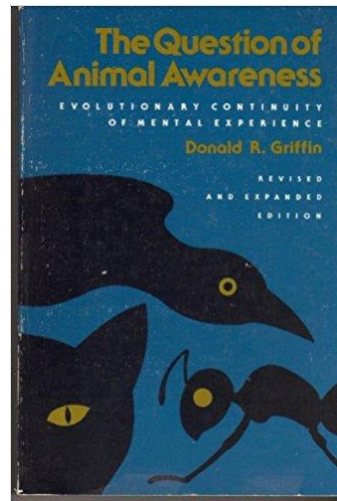
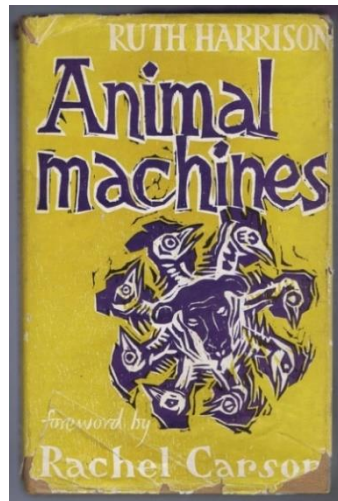
- Science objective ... *sensation, perception, image, desire and even thinking and emotion*      Watson (1928)
- Emotions, fear, sexual desire, maternal tenderness, motivate escaping from danger, courtship and copulation, caring for young      McDougall (1926)



# Behaviourism

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1964



1998

# Commonly accepted

- *... animals have senses emotions and consciousness; they demonstrate sagacity, docility, memory, association of ideas and reason; they also have imagination and the moral qualities of courage, friendship and loyalty.* Youatt (1839)
- *Pleasures and pains ... to seek the one and shun the other* Romanes (1884)

# What are we responding to?

- Philosophy
- Science
- Common sense
- *If sentience is necessary for a consideration of welfare, surely it is sentience that welfare is all about.*

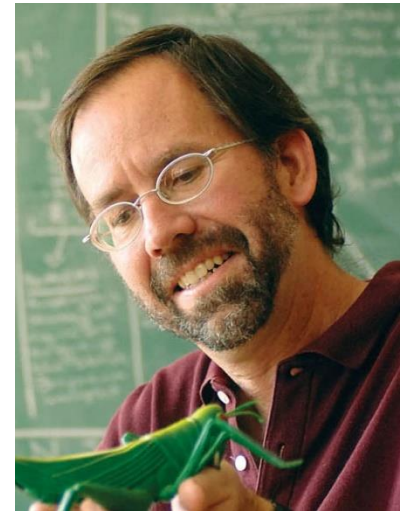
Duncan 2004

- Lessons of the past – positive emotions or opportunities for normal behaviour, likes and dislikes, but not sentience



## 2. Degrees and limits of sentience – insects

- See, hear, smell, taste, feel, and respond to pressure, shock, heat
- Ultraviolet wavelengths, polarisation of light
- Endorphins, neurotoxic insecticides
- Feel pain, learn (headless)
- Anaesthetised



*Jeff Lockwood*

# Honey bees

- Sugar solutions on a boat – lakeshore, lake
- Bees communicated where food was
- Reject rich sources of food if in middle of a lake
- Integrate information with their mental map

*Gould & Gould (1988); Tautz et al (2004)*

- ... *possess a belief-desire cognitive architecture*

*Carruthers (2007)*



# Jumping spiders

- Observe prey on other platforms
- Map route with eyes in reverse order
- Recall from different perspectives
- ... *plan their routes to their prey in advance*



*Tarsitano et al (1997, 1999)*

# Mental abilities and legal rights

## Degrees of mental complexity

1. Symbols, language, deceive, mirror
2. Sense of self, think and act, visualise
3. Unknown (most animals)
4. Stimulus-response 'machines'

*Wise (2002)*

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*Wise (2002)*

- No sense in using science to draw the line!
- Does sentience justify moral concern?
- NIWAC

### 3. Happy hens

- Genetically altered insentient pseudo-chickens  
(blind, featherless, ...)  
or



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- Genetically altered insentient pseudo-chickens (blind, featherless, ...)
- Needs provided for but only positive emotions
- Intuitively wrong – yuk!
- Used to it? Fork, margarine, artificial insemination
- More about humans than animals

# Conclusions – going feral or progressing?

- *Can they suffer ... Can they think about themselves*
- Inspire respect?
- Law, philosophy, science, common sense...

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- Is sentience going to prevent this?



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- Symbolic – 'intrinsic' value ... *no altered consequences for animal welfare*



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