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Animal Rights

Goals:
- Get students to discuss why we treat animals differently from humans and the moral permissibility of doing such a thing
- Encourage students to question and criticize society's reliance on animal products

Activity:
- Students will work together to rank a list of animals from most morally permissible to kill and eat to least permissible
  - Animals (ignoring taste/portion size):
    - Pet dog
    - Giant panda (very endangered)
    - Chicken
    - Rat
    - Chicken egg
    - Audrey
    - Exotic bird
    - Cute cow
    - Deer

Discussion:
- What considerations did you use to rank these animals? For example (if they say this), why is it more reprehensible to kill a pet dog than a cow?
- What factors are there to consider (intelligence, size, beauty, scarcity, etc.)?
  - Challenge the students - we would never kill less intelligent/good looking humans
- In our first visit we established an objective duty not to kill. Why does this suddenly disappear when it comes to non-humans? Or does it not disappear?
- Which of these animals would you expect to see in a zoo? Why do we keep animals in zoos? Is it ok to keep animals in zoos?

Concluding Questions:
- Fill in the blank: "It's ok to treat animals differently from humans *because…*"
  - Have students offer as many reasons as they can
- Should we feel bad when we consume animal products? If yes, why continue?
  - Does how the animal is killed matter to the morality of consuming animal products?
  - Is hunting immoral?
  - Should factory farming be disallowed even though the animals are going to die anyway?
  - Would you feel less immoral if you were eating free-range chicken?

- ○ Is there such a thing as humane slaughter? If there is such thing, is it ok to consume animal products?
- What about animal products in fashion? What is the moral status of killing an animal for a fur coat or a handbag versus eating it?