

Hans Werner Ingensiep:

Animal Soul and Animal ethics

The Problem of Integration of Animals into natural philosophy and moral concepts of German Philosophers in the 18th Century.

International Journal of History and Ethics of Natural Sciences, Technology and Medicine N.S. Vol. 4, Nr. 2., p. 103-118 (1996)

Summary:

The existence of an animal soul and problems of animal ethics are often discussed in the German philosophical literature of the 18th century, especially in response to the cartesian theory of the beast machine. (e.g. Winkler, Meier). The paper unfolds secondly some strategies for the legitimation of the death of animals, including contemporary concepts of soul, mainly under the influence of Leibniz. The third part examines some fundamental concepts of obligations to animals within the discussion of natural rights (e.g. Thomasius, Kant). Finally, examples for the early considerations about animal rights (Dietler, Smith) are presented.