

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Rock! Paper! Scissors! Tools for anarchist + Christian thought, Issue 2

Liberation for Every Body: Toward New Futures with Other Animals

Guest editor: Nekeisha Alayna Alexis

EXTENDED DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 2018



Jo-Anne MacArthur / We Animals

“The human-animal divide is the ideological bedrock underlying the framework of white supremacy. The negative notion of ‘the animal’ is the *anchor* of this system.”

— Syl Ko, “Addressing Racism Requires Addressing the Situation of Animals,” *Aphro-ism: Essays on Pop Culture, Feminism, and Black Veganism from Two Sisters* (Lantern Books), p. 45

“There’s almost something tragic and comical about activists failing to recognize the blatant missing piece to the activist puzzle that your *own* oppression is anchored to your citizenship as a ‘subhuman’ or ‘animal’ in contemporary society. This is what makes racism, sexism, and all the other ‘isms’ possible. These ‘isms’ are *expressions* of being labeled less-than-human. Therefore, this issue isn’t just race-based or gender-based, it’s *simultaneously* one of species as well. If we aren’t organizing around the human-animal divide, then we aren’t properly getting to the root of our oppression.” — Syl Ko, “Revaluing the Human as a Way to Revalue the Animal,” *Aphro-ism*, p. 92

“What’s necessary in order to decolonize (from) the system is to unlearn myths about our own bodies as well as all other bodies that are provided with ‘inferior’ citizenships.” — Aph Ko, “Creating New Conceptual Architecture: On Afrofuturism, Animality, and Unlearning/Rewriting Ourselves,” *Aphro-ism*, p. 129

You can’t talk about liberation without talking about what we do to other animals. That’s the topic of the second issue of *Rock! Paper! Scissors! Tools for anarchist + Christian thought* online journal. With

that in mind, we want submissions that take a hard look at the violence people commit and allow against other animals; *and* how the way we use and abuse our power over other animals supports treating certain people like animals in our society. We want submissions that consider the possibility that, if we really want oppression to end, whether it's against Black people, women, people with disabilities, LGBT folks, etc., we can't accept violence and brutality against *any* body. Human and animal violence are related and we need to open up all the cages if we want a world without cages and where *every* body can live as freely they are made to be.

Submission guidelines: We want all types of entries! Send us writing (long or short), photos, drawings, sermons, songs (MP3), videos, poems, interviews, how-tos and anything else you can think of. Make sure you explore what it means people and animals to live freely together. Pay attention to the fact that people from lots of backgrounds will be reading the journal. Double-check your facts. You get to keep all the rights to whatever you send in. **Content deadline is extended to August 31. Send to submissions.jesusradicals@gmail.com.** For details, visit: jesusradicals.com/submission-guidelines.html

More about the topic

What we do to other animals is fucked up: The majority of people say we should not mistreat and abuse other animals. Yet, every day we force them to be our entertainment; lock them up in zoos; use them in wars, for policing and medical testing; kill them for clothing, accessories and food; and hunt and farm them. These disconnected actions come from a long belief that other animals are disposable and we can use them for whatever we want. We tell ourselves that they don't have feelings, or that their feelings are not important. We tell ourselves that there is no other way to live: that someone has to be on top and it might as well be humans. But what if there was another way? What if we could create a world where animals didn't have to be subjected to human power? Can we imagine living together and having what we needed, and what would it take for us to do it?

What we do to people is fucked up too—and our relationship with other animals is part of it: A lot of times, people who work to help other animals; people who don't really think about other animals very much; and people who are going out of their way to hurt and kill other animals don't really get how what they do relates to injustice against Black people, people of color, women, and other groups. But racism, sexism, being anti-gay/lesbian, discriminating against disabled people and other social problems are tangled up with what we do to other animals. That's because those forms of oppression originate from the idea that there is an ideal group of humans — namely White straight men with money/property and “normal” bodies — and all other groups are not-as-human, beasts, thugs, animals or almost animals. Because the dominant culture says it's okay to use violence against animals, there is a logic that says it's also okay to use violence against everyone that is outside the human ideal. Can you think of ways that human and animal oppressions relate? What would we have to change about the way we fight for justice if we realized our liberation comes from fighting for freedom for other animals too?

Check out <http://vine.bravebirds.org/connections/racism/> to find out more about these ideas.

Topics you might want to write about:

- race, gender, sexuality and/or dis/ability and animality;
- animal agriculture and colonialism;
- political/ethical/religious/spiritual/Christian veganism;

- biblical and theological reinterpretations of human-and-other-animal relationships;
- vegans of color experiences;
- plant-based living and community/Black health and self-determination;
- vegan parenting;
- sexual violence in the animal rights movements;
- critical and careful analysis of slavery and other human and animal atrocities;
- animal sanctuaries as places of (cross-species) hope and resistance;
- how-tos on radical action for other animals
- how-tos on starting sanctuaries, rescues and other safe-spaces for other animals;
- veganic farming/permaculture;
- the whitewashing of veganism;
- domestication and animal liberation
- meat and (toxic) masculinity;
- the meaning of Jesus life, death and/or resurrection for other animals;
- incarceration across species (zoos, prisons, labs etc);
- open rescues and saving animals;
- faith-based animal advocacy;
- animals and war-making;
- animals and capitalism/anti-capitalist relationships with other animals
- reframing “pets”
- and other related reflections