How can someone who condemns hunting, animal farming, and animal experimentation also favor legal abortion, which is the deliberate destruction of a human fetus? The authors of Beating Hearts aim to reconcile this apparent conflict and examine the surprisingly similar strategic and tactical questions faced by activists in the pro-life and animal rights movements. Beating Hearts maintains that sentience, or the ability to have subjective experiences, grounds a being’s entitlement to moral concern. The authors argue that nearly all human exploitation of animals is unjustified. Early abortions do not contradict the sentience principle because they precede fetal sentience, and Beating Hearts explains why the mere potential for sentience does not create moral entitlements. Late abortions do raise serious moral questions, but forcing a woman to carry a child to term is problematic as a form of gender-based exploitation. These ethical explorations lead to a wider discussion of the strategies deployed by the pro-life and animal rights movements. Should legal reforms precede or follow attitudinal changes? Do gory images win over or alienate supporters? Is violence ever principled? By probing the connections between debates about abortion and animal rights, Beating Hearts uses each highly contested set of questions to shed light on the other.

**Book Information**

Series: Critical Perspectives on Animals: Theory, Culture, Science, and Law

Hardcover: 264 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (March 8, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231175140


Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars Â— See all reviews Â— (2 customer reviews)


**Customer Reviews**

I don’t know why anyone tries to write about either of these subjects, abortion or animal rights. To attempt to write about both of them is madness. This book does not do a good job on either subject. One of the great evolution scientist once said that the history of biological life was the history
of one organism eating another. I always quote that to vegans. I eat little meat or fish and I believe
most people should eat little or no meat or fish and that animals should be treated humanely.
However, I do not think you can make a case for saying that humans should not eat other animals
at all for moral reasons. It simply does not make sense. On abortion, few people on either side make
very good arguments either way about what to do about abortion. In my opinion, there are three
issues, moral, legal, practical. There have been about 50 million legal abortions in this country since
1973; there are now over 1 million per year, the rate has been falling. There are about 45 million
abortions every year worldwide. Millions of women become pregnant who do not want to have a
baby or can't afford to. The moral question -- is abortion the taking of a human life. Yes, it is
preventing human life, that is what makes the issue difficult. The legal question is should it be illegal.
Given how many women want to have abortions, making it illegal is simply not an option unless
there are realistic alternatives. It doesn't make sense to make millions of women criminals because
of their personal moral choices or to risk their health getting illegal abortions. The practical question
is -- what is the alternative. Our best bet would be a massive program providing contraception and
education and well organized adoption. Is there any reason to believe that can happen or that it
would work?

Download to continue reading...

Beating Hearts: Abortion and Animal Rights (Critical Perspectives on Animals: Theory, Culture,
Science, and Law) Abortion after Roe: Abortion after Legalization (Studies in Social Medicine)
Abortion Rites: A Social History of Abortion in America The Idea of Natural Rights: Studies on
Natural Rights, Natural Law, and Church Law 1150 1625 (Emory University Studies in Law and
(The Pro-Active Fathers Rights Series Book 2) The Transplant Imaginary: Mechanical Hearts,
Animal Parts, and Moral Thinking in Highly Experimental Science Case Law and Conclusions: A
Fathers Rights Guide (Case Law and Conclusions for Fathers’ Rights Book 1) Cool Animals: In The
Air, On Land and In The Sea: Animal Encyclopedia for Kids - Wildlife (Children’s Animal Books) Pro:
Reclaiming Abortion Rights Politically Correct Death: Answering the Arguments for Abortion Rights
Farm Sanctuary: Changing Hearts and Minds About Animals and Food A Sea of Broken Hearts:
Patient Rights in a Dangerous, Profit-Driven Health Care System Zoopolis: A Political Theory of
Animal Rights Voracious Science and Vulnerable Animals: A Primate Scientist’s Ethical Journey
Rights, and the Environment (Law and Society (Paperback)) Women's Human Rights: The
International and Comparative Law Casebook (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights) BIG

Dmca