



Humane Education *Questionnaire*

In high school, were you familiar with the concept of **sentience** in animals? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Based on your high school experience, how were animals generally presented in an academic context? Were they primarily discussed as *resources* or *beings capable of feeling*? ☐ Resources ☐ Beings capable of feeling

The lesson plan highlights the 21st-century recognition of animal sentience as a **turning point**. Do you believe learning about milestones like the 2005/2006 international conferences would have been of interest to you in your high school years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The lesson plan challenges the “**us**” and “**them**” mentality regarding sentient beings. Do you think being exposed to this framework in high school would have encouraged you to be more interested in animal welfare in your daily life? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The lesson plan mentions the 2016 Constitutional Court judgment that recognised animals as **sentient beings with intrinsic value** in South Africa. Were you given the opportunity in high school to study and become more aware of the legal and moral implications of this historic judgment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The lesson plan discusses the ‘complexities ahead,’ such as the difference in our consideration between companion animals (dogs/cats) and equally sentient animals (pigs/cows). Do you think a structured discussion on these ethical double standards would have been of interest to you in your high school years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The lesson plan briefly touches on various ways humans cause animal suffering (trophy hunting, caging, experimentation, habitat destruction, space research). Do you think that an opportunity to analyse these complex ethical issues (*like the story of Laika*) in a high school setting would prepare you for critical thinking at university? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you feel this *Humane Education Lesson Plan* would have been a **valuable addition** to your senior phase education? ☐ Yes ☐ No

We thank you.

Student Survey Insights:

Why Animal Sentience Education is Essential

The questionnaire completed by Sociology students at UWC was a powerful indictment of the current curriculum and a clear mandate for change. The results reveal a strong desire to discuss complex, ethical issues surrounding our relationship with the animal kingdom.

SURVEY FINDING	RESULT	KEY IMPLICATION
<i>Exposure to Animal Sentience</i>	74% said high school did not afford them the opportunity to familiarise themselves with animal sentience.	Curriculum update is needed to address a basic concept in modern ethics.
<i>Animals as Resources Only</i>	84% said animals were primarily discussed as resources, not as sentient beings.	The curriculum promotes a purely utilitarian view of animals.
<i>Interest in Scientific Recognition</i>	98% said they would have been interested in learning about the scientific recognition of animal sentience (e.g., the major international conferences in 2005/2006).	Students are keen for a science-based, up-to-date view.
<i>Desire for Ethical Discussion</i>	93% said they would have been interested in a structured discussion on the ethical double standards regarding pets versus equally sentient farm animals.	Students want to analyse moral consistency in human-animal interactions.
<i>Recognition of the 'Us vs. Them' Mentality</i>	100% said exposure at high school to the ' us ' and ' them ' mentality regarding ourselves and animals would have encouraged an interest in animal welfare.	Early intervention is seen as a key way to foster compassion and breakdown speciesism.
<i>Legal and Moral Implications</i>	91% were not presented with the opportunity to study South Africa's 2016 Constitutional Court judgment that recognised animals as sentient beings with intrinsic value .	A lack of knowledge about significant national legal precedents.
<i>Critical Thinking Preparation</i>	100% said they would have liked the opportunity to analyse complex ethical issues (trophy hunting, animal experimentation, etc.), believing it would have been good preparation for critical thinking at university level .	Sentience education is viewed as a valuable tool for developing advanced academic skills.
<i>Value of the Lesson Plan</i>	98% said the Lesson Plan on Animal Sentience, as presented, would have been a valuable addition to their senior phase education.	Overwhelming endorsement for the specific educational module.