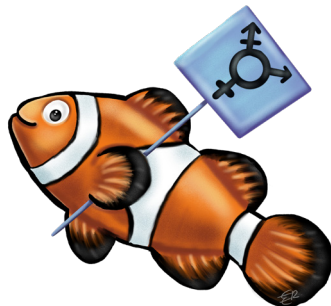


The world is full of queer animals.

Giraffes, penguins, clown fish, lizards, or hyena are just some of the hundreds of species who frequently engage in same-sex sexual behavior, or who are characterized by high degrees of sexual or gender diversity. Female only lizard species like the 'leaping lesbian lizard' demonstrate that reproduction works just fine without a partner (and that sex can indeed just be fun!), whereas some fish species have more than two sexes, and yet others, like clown fish, change their sex during their lifetime. Animals are indeed quite 'queer'.

But these aren't the only reasons why animal liberation should be included in the fight for queer liberation.



Mechanisms of oppression such as – but not limited to – homophobia, transphobia, sexism, racism, ableism, ageism, classism, and speciesism, work in similar ways, are interconnected and must be combated together.

The Vegan Rainbow Project advocates for the liberation of all beings from every type of domination, exploitation and discrimination based on arbitrary distinctions such as gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity.



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Queer Animals

Why animal liberation is a queer issue



Why animal liberation is a queer issue.

The LGBTQIA+ movement has recognized that mechanisms of oppression such as homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and racism, etc. follow similar patterns and that we must combat them together. However, the oppression and exploitation of nonhuman animals has been largely excluded from this analysis.

Like us, nonhuman animals should have autonomy over their own body, their life, and their choices of sexual partners, all of which are fundamental rights the LGBTQIA+ community is fighting for. In the animal industrial complex, nonhuman animals are denied all of these rights. In the industry, they are faced with forced insemination and pregnancies, interventions such as castration, and ultimately, death. The animal industry relies on all of these practices, and could not exist without them.

These and other types of oppression and exploitation are in direct opposition to demands for bodily and sexual freedom, irrespective of species.

We're all queer animals.

SPECIESISM IN THE COMMUNITY

Speciesism describes the discrimination and oppression of individuals based on their species membership.

• Meat-Eating

Although the vegetarian or vegan lesbian isn't just a cliché, meat eating is still celebrated and even portrayed as 'masculine' in other parts of the community. This reproduces patriarchal and gendered notions of 'food', even within the queer community.

• Gay Night at the Zoo

In recent years, visits to the zoo have been increasingly advertised as part of Pride month. Here, same-sex penguin couples have often been center of attention, especially in LGBTQIA+ media. Celebrating our freedom amongst caged nonhuman animals appears paradoxical, to say the least. After all: How 'out' can one be in a cage?

THERE ARE OTHER WAYS

• Veganism

Veganism is a philosophy and practice, that seeks to exclude—as far as is possible and practicable—all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. Living vegan is not only an act of solidarity with other queer animals, but also contributes to protecting our planet.

• Queer sanctuaries

Many LGBTQIA+ run sanctuaries show that there are other, harmonious, ways of living and co-existing with nonhuman animals. Sanctuaries are a safe-space for nonhuman animals where they can live free from being exploited for profit. These places are leading the way towards a liberated future for all living beings.

Books & other Resources

For more information, books and other resources on queer animals, veganism, and interconnected oppression, visit our website.

www.the-vegan-rainbow-project.org