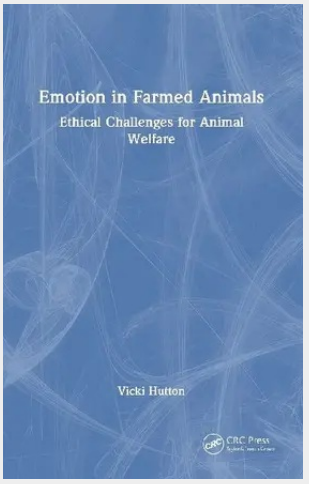
Hutton

Emotion in Farmed Animals

Ethical Challenges for Animal Welfare



The emergence of scientific data confirming the capacity of nonhuman animals to feel what is happening to them and experience positive and negative emotions has created an uncomfortable moral dilemma for many humans. To meet demand for animal products in the 21st century, millions of animals are confined and suffer in industrial farm settings. Acknowledging that a sense of helplessness to end this entrenched suffering on such a large scale can lead to inertia, this book instead seeks to bring change through stories of individual animals now living on farmed animal sanctuaries. These rescued animals have narratives that reveal them as individuals with emotional capacity and a future. Each chapter looks at a particular species' entwined history with humanity, as well as the biological and neurological structures that unequivocally confirm their ability to experience positive and negative emotions. This aspect is brought to life through the stories of individual animals living the good life after rescue and rehabilitation. Farmed animals all have stories to tell but few get the chance to do so; this book amplifies the voices of those who have been able to reclaim basic rights in a human-dominated world with their stories providing insight into the uniqueness of every pig, cow, bird, rabbit and more intended for our plates and others for companionship or sheer joy. This book will be of interest to those studying or working in animal ethics, welfare and law; veterinary science; running a farmed animal sanctuary; or simply seeking to understand more about the animals with whom we share this planet.

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276,50 €
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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781032855844
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-1-032-85584-4
Verlag: CRC Press
Erscheinungstermin: 12.12.2025
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: 1. Auflage 2025
Produktform: Gebunden
Gewicht: 552 g
Seiten: 290
Format (B x H): 161 x 240 mm