



Bioethics Centre  
Te Pokapu Matatika Koiora



## ANZCCART Essay Competition 2018

The ANZCCART Essay Competition, organized in collaboration with the University of Otago Bioethics Centre, seeks to inspire students to think critically about the role animal research plays in today's society and to engage with the difficulties that surround animal use.

### *What will the awards cover?*

A cheque for NZ\$500, the publication of the essay on the ANZCCART and Bioethics Centre website, and a range of other sources.

TWO awards are available: one for postgraduate essay entrants, one for undergraduate entrants.

### *Eligibility criteria:*

Students who are currently enrolled at a tertiary education institution in New Zealand (including undergraduate and postgraduate students).

### *Deadline:*

The deadline for submissions is **21 September 2018**. The winning essays will be announced on Monday 19 November 2018.

### *Essay prompt:*

**What is moral status in relation to animals? Outline and illustrate by example one argument for (at least some) animals having moral status. Evaluate this argument and draw conclusions from your argument about ethical obligations to animals in the context of research OR teaching.**

Suggested sources that may be helpful to start your research:

- DeGrazia, David. 2002. *Animal Rights: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- DeGrazia, David. 1996. *Taking animals seriously: mental life and moral status*. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Garner, Robert. 2005. *Animal Ethics*. Cambridge: Polity
- Gruen, Lori. 2014. "The Moral Status of Animals." In *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Edward N. Zalta, Fall 2014. <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2014/entries/moral-animal/>

### *Essay rules:*

The submitted essay will be the author's original work and shall be no more than 2,000 words (excluding references). Collaborative writing by two or more authors will not be accepted. Only one essay shall be accepted from each student.

Essays should include references, which should use a commonly used citation style. Plagiarism detection software may be used to assess correct citation of sources. More information about citation styles can be found at: [www.otago.ac.nz/library/quicklinks/citation](http://www.otago.ac.nz/library/quicklinks/citation)

The essay must not have been published elsewhere or submitted to any other essay competition. However, an essay that has been submitted for course work will be accepted for this competition. No revisions to the essay will be accepted after it has been submitted to ANZCCART.

Essays must be emailed. The entrant's name must NOT appear on the essay itself. You must include a separate cover page that includes your full name, email address, contact phone number, the name of the institution at which you are studying, the level of current study (undergraduate or postgraduate), and a photocopy of your current student card (or evidence of your current enrolment as a student). Please send the essay as a word doc, rtf file or text-only file.

Organisers reserve the right not to award in any category at its own discretion and without recourse to the entrants.

Entries must be sent to: [anzccart@royalsociety.org.nz](mailto:anzccart@royalsociety.org.nz), with 'ANZCCART Essay Competition' in the subject line.

### *Assessment:*

All contributions will be evaluated blind by ANZCCART or their nominees based on focus on the essay prompt, clarity of their argument, depth of understanding of the topic, accuracy, originality and overall writing style, described below. Please bear in mind that the award takes into account essay category, word length and other restrictions on the essay.

- **Direction:** Does the work show an understanding of what is being asked in the question or prompt, and does the work respond well to the prompt? To respond well to the prompt requires discussion and argument that is focused on the prompt/question and does not address irrelevant issues, examples or ideas. Essays usually cannot cover all relevant material in depth in the word length – when these are significant, they should be noted but set aside (not discussed).
- **Reasoning:** Does this work exemplify the practices of a virtuous reasoner? Possessing the skills to write clear and compelling arguments is important. But so too is the ability and tendency to be fair to claims and arguments, creative, open-minded, to and to approach one's argument in a critical way, aware of its limitations as well as its strengths. These epistemic virtues are an essential part of being a critical reasoner.
- **Argument quality:** Does the work contain well-supported claims and well-reasoned, valid arguments for conclusions? Are ideas and concepts in the essay well-understood? Are any assumptions for the purposes of argument noted, and reasonable? This category is intended to assess the quality of your arguments.
- **Communication:** Does the work express its ideas and arguments clearly and simply? Is there a sensible structure within paragraphs and the essay as a whole? Good writing is not just about pleasant prose - it is about communicating your ideas and arguments to your audience, which will include non-specialists, clearly, as well as with some flair. Great ideas you cannot express to others are powerless.