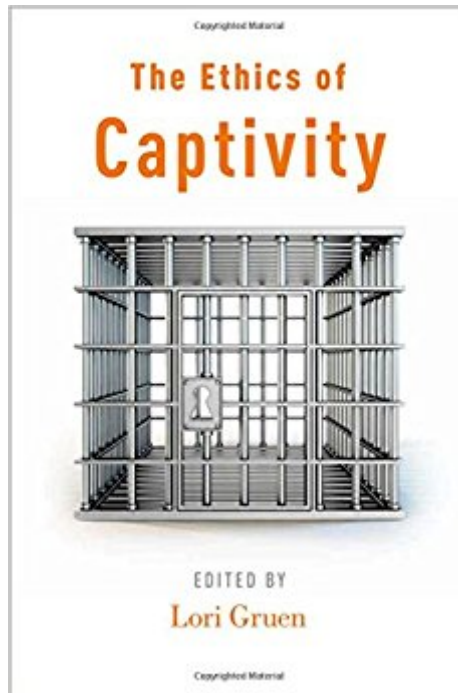




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# The Ethics Of Captivity



## Synopsis

In the United States roughly 2 million people are incarcerated; billions of animals are held captive (and then killed) in the food industry every year; hundreds of thousands of animals are kept in laboratories; thousands are in zoos and aquaria; millions of "pets" are captive in our homes. Surprisingly, despite the rich ethical questions it raises, very little philosophical attention has been paid to questions raised by captivity. Though conditions of captivity vary widely for humans and for other animals, there are common ethical themes that imprisonment raises, including the value of liberty, the nature of autonomy, the meaning of dignity, and the impact of routine confinement on physical and psychological well-being. This volume brings together scholars, scientists, and sanctuary workers to address in fifteen new essays the ethical issues captivity raises. Section One contains chapters written by those with expert knowledge about particular conditions of captivity and includes discussion of how captivity is experienced by dogs, whales and dolphins, elephants, chimpanzees, rabbits, formerly farmed animals, and human prisoners. Section Two contains chapters by philosophers and social theorists that reflect on the social, political, and ethical issues raised by captivity, including discussions about confinement, domestication, captive breeding for conservation, the work of moral repair, dignity and an ethics of sight, and the role that coercion plays.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Combining heartfelt but sober descriptions of the captivity experiences of several animal species (including elephants and chimpanzees) and of human prisoners with examinations of the ethical

problems captivity raises, these essays significantly challenge a range of practices that most people take for granted... This collection has much to offer... Recommended." --Choice "The Ethics of Captivity is a very important book and will make a significant and unique contribution to the literature on the lives of innumerable individuals. The essays cover a lot of ground both in dealing with the major issues and from a nice comparative perspective. This book must be widely read not only by academics but also by people who can make a difference for the billions of animals and millions of people who live in captivity. The content, organization, and accessible style of these essays will allow people with many different interests to learn about the ethics of captivity."--Marc Bekoff, author of *The Emotional Lives of Animals*, *Wild Justice: The Moral Lives of Animals*, and editor of *Ignoring Nature No More: The Case for Compassionate Conservation*"The book's manifold perspectives deliver a valuably intricate understanding of the nuanced inflections we might consider when we assess and deliberate the ethics of captivity...generally intelligent and useful..." -- *Journal of Animal Ethics*

Lori Gruen is Professor of Philosophy, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Environmental Studies at Wesleyan University where she also coordinates Wesleyan Animal Studies and directs the Ethics in Society Project. She is the author, most recently, of *Ethics and Animals* (2011) and co-editor with Carol Adams of *Ecofeminism: Feminist Intersections with Other Animals and the Earth* (2014).

This book is a remarkable accomplishment. Lori Gruen consistently takes the time to think about issues that most people would prefer not to think about. In this collection, a variety of philosophers take on the complex issue of captivity in both humans and animals. The essay from human prisoners currently incarcerated is one of the standouts. Other fantastic essays include Gruen's own piece on dignity and an ethics of sight, as well as pieces on dog captivity and the ethics of controlling the cat population. In short, this collection is incredible and is essential reading for anyone at all concerned with ethics. Really though, by giving these prisoners and activists a voice, Gruen is doing an important service for us all. Buy this book!

Wonderful. Comprehensive. Thought-provoking. This is a book that will only become more important. The book is an interdisciplinary meditation on the ethical ramifications of keeping animals (both human and non-human animals) in cages. The sheer mass of animals currently in cages is staggering and speaks to the dire need of literature on the subject. Someone must speak for those

who cannot speak for themselves. Lori Gruen not only speaks but shouts.

I was really disappointed with this book. I had to read it for my Environmental Ethics class which I loved but this book only gives examples of America's captivity, instead of talking about this topic in a more international perspective.

I'd been eagerly anticipating the release of this book, and it doesn't disappoint. I'm always curious to know what ecofeminist philosopher Lori Gruen is thinking about, and you should be too. Here she has gathered scholars and activists from truly varied vantage points and invited them to think closely about captivity from their standpoints. Contributors include not only adept academicians but also a former political prisoner as well as activists who work to abolish prisons or liberate animals. One contributor writes from an animal sanctuary while others write from the prison in which they are currently incarcerated. All have something unique to say that we, who are living in an age of unprecedented lock-down, need to read and heed.

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