

Peter Singer Quotes

Animal, Thinking, People, Children, Pain, Giving, Suffering, Believe, Mean, Dog, Needs, Ethics, Long, Lying, Views, World, Country, Philosophy, Important, Book

All the arguments to prove man's superiority cannot shatter this hard fact: in suffering, the animals are our equals.

~Peter Singer

If possessing a higher degree of intelligence does not entitle one human to use another for his or her own ends, how can it entitle humans to exploit non-humans?

~Peter Singer

We are, quite literally, gambling with the future of our planet- for the sake of hamburgers

~Peter Singer

Hebrew word for "charity" tzedakah, simply means "justice" and as this suggests, for Jews, giving to the poor is no optional extra but an essential part of living a just life.

~Peter Singer

Becoming a vegan is a sure way of completely avoiding participation in the abuse of farmed animals. Vegans are a living demonstration of the fact that we do not need to exploit animals for food.

~Peter Singer

If it is in our power to prevent something bad from happening, without thereby sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, we ought, morally, to do it.

~Peter Singer

Killing a defective infant is not morally equivalent to killing a person. Sometimes it is not wrong at all.

~Peter Singer

Dolphins are social mammals, capable of enjoying their lives. They form close bonds with other members of their group.

~Peter Singer

Those who purchase meat, fur, and leather have no right to be shielded from the sights and sounds of the slaughterhouses from which these products were produced.

~Peter Singer

Of course, infanticide needs to be strictly legally controlled and rare - but it should not be ruled out, any more than abortion.

~Peter Singer

Animal factories are one more sign of the extent to which our technological capacities have advanced faster than our ethics.

~Peter Singer

Surely there will be some nonhuman animals whose lives, by any standards, are more valuable than the lives of some humans.

~Peter Singer

We should give the same respect to the lives of animals as we do to the lives of humans.

~Peter Singer

More often there's a compromise between ethics and expediency.

~Peter Singer

The future of the world depends on how well we meet it.

~Peter Singer

History is not going to look kindly on us if we just keep our head in the sand on armed autonomous robotics issue because it sounds too science fiction.

~Peter Singer

We see things like reciprocity which are fairly central to our view of ethics. But if you're talking about a set of worked-out rules on what we are supposed to do then, yes, it is a human product.

~Peter Singer

Christianity is our foe. If animal rights is to succeed, we must destroy the Judeo-Christian religious tradition.

~Peter Singer

The traditional view of the sanctity of human life will collapse under pressure from scientific, technological and demographic developments.

~Peter Singer

The notion that human life is sacred just because it is human life is medieval.

~Peter Singer

There is a growing movement called effective altruism. It's important because it combines both the heart and the head.

~Peter Singer

Effective altruism is the form of altruism in which we bring our rational capacities to bear in order to do the most good that we can.

~Peter Singer

Personal purity isn't really the issue. Not supporting animal abuse - and persuading others not to support it - is.

~Peter Singer

I do not believe that it could never be justifiable to experiment on a brain-damaged human.

~Peter Singer

An animal experiment cannot be justifiable unless the experiment is so

important that the use of a brain-damaged human would be justifiable.

~Peter Singer

The Internet, like the steam engine, is a technological breakthrough that changed the world.

~Peter Singer

Extreme poverty is not only a condition of unsatisfied material needs. It is often accompanied by a degrading state of powerlessness.

~Peter Singer

We should aim for our children to be good people, and to live ethical lives that manifest concern for others as well as for themselves.

~Peter Singer

Every day we act in ways that reflect our ethical judgements.

~Peter Singer

We are not especially 'interested in' animals. Neither of us had ever been inordinately fond of dogs, cats, or horses in the way that many people are. We didn't 'love' animals.

~Peter Singer

If penicillin had been judged by its toxicity to guinea pigs, it might never have been used by man.

~Peter Singer

What you could say, and what I do argue in the book, is that he doesn't have as much concern for the lives of Iraqis as he does for the lives of Americans, or even frozen American embryos.

~Peter Singer

To turn the other cheek is to teach would-be cheats that cheating pays.

~Peter Singer

Interest in business ethics courses has surged, and student activities at leading business schools are more focused than ever before on making business serve long-term social values.

~Peter Singer

As we realize that more and more things have global impact, I think we're going to get people increasingly wanting to get away from a purely national interest.

~Peter Singer

The idea that we can actually have an impact on places more or less instantly, too, by responding in some way or not responding, I think, also makes it true.

~Peter Singer

My work is based on the assumption that clarity and consistency in our moral thinking is likely, in the long run, to lead us to hold better views on ethical issues.

~Peter Singer

In my world of the people who study war and defense issues, we simply did not talk about robotics. We do not talk about it because it's seen as mere science fiction. It's cold, hard, metallic reality.

~Peter Singer

At present scientists do not look for alternatives simply because they do not care enough about the animals they are using.

~Peter Singer

The prescription of the equality of human beings is not a description of an alleged actual equality among humans: it is a prescription of how we should treat human beings.

~Peter Singer

I don't think there's anything in the compromise that means that there's a clash of ethics.

~Peter Singer

If we can put a man on the moon and sequence the human genome, we should be able to devise something close to a universal digital public library.

~Peter Singer

Since ancient times, philosophers have maintained that to strive too hard for one's own happiness is self-defeating.

~Peter Singer

It is a mistake to assume that the law should always enforce morality.

~Peter Singer

I'm a Utilitarian, so I don't see the rule against lying as absolute; it's always subject to some overriding utility which may prevent its exercise.

~Peter Singer

The capacity to reason is a special sort of capacity because it can lead us to places that we did not expect to go.

~Peter Singer

I think ethics is always there; it's not always a very thoughtful or reflective ethics.

~Peter Singer

It's also much clearer how much damage the occupation of Iraq is doing to America's reputation and prestige around the world; and that's just starting now to hit home in the United States.

~Peter Singer

I don't understand the notion that modern farming is anything do to with nature. It's a pretty gross interference with nature.

~Peter Singer

I don't think nationalism is alone holding the field; it's in contention with a lot of different things.

~Peter Singer

If you go back in time you'll find tribes that were essentially only concerned with their own tribal members. If you were a member of another tribe, you could be killed with impunity.

~Peter Singer

Somebody who eats twice as much factory-farmed products as he or she needs to is clearly doing twice as much damage to the planet. From a utilitarian point of view, that's twice as bad.

~Peter Singer

If we all think only of our own interests, we are headed for collective disaster - just look at what we are doing to our planet's climate.

~Peter Singer

Grain that is used to feed animals that end up on our tables as turkeys and hams could have gone to feed starving people.

~Peter Singer

If we are prepared to take the life of another being merely in order to satisfy our taste for a particular type of food, then that being is no more than a means to our end.

~Peter Singer

We wait until Pandora's box is opened before we say, "Wow, maybe we should understand what's in that box." This is the story of humans on every problem.

~Peter Singer

Torturing a human being is almost always wrong, but it is not absolutely wrong.

~Peter Singer

Science does not stand still, and neither does philosophy, although the latter has a tendency to walk in circles.

~Peter Singer

So why don't we make ourselves the last generation on earth? If we would all agree to have ourselves sterilized then no sacrifices would be required - we could party our way into extinction!

~Peter Singer

Looking back on my career, I think I've been extremely fortunate to be in the right place at the right time in order to have the influence that I did.

~Peter Singer

Pain is pain, and the importance of preventing unnecessary pain and suffering does not diminish because the being that suffers is not a member of our own species.

~Peter Singer

Human social institutions can effect the course of human evolution. Just as climate, food supply, predators, and other natural forces of selection have molded our nature, so too can our culture.

~Peter Singer

There is no humane slaughter requirement for wild fish caught and killed at sea, nor, in most places, for farmed fish.

~Peter Singer

Human decision-making is complex. On our own, our tendency to yield to short-term temptations, and even to addictions, may be too strong for our rational, long-term planning.

~Peter Singer

To give preference to the life of a being simply because that being is a member of our species would put us in the same position as racists who give preference to those who are members of their race.

~Peter Singer

Ethics is inescapable.

~Peter Singer

Scholars have long dreamed of a universal library containing everything that has ever been written.

~Peter Singer

If we're going to live an ethical life, it's not enough just to follow the thou-shalt-nots. â€œ If we have enough, we have to share some of that with people who have so little.

~Peter Singer

According to the Dominant Western tradition, the natural world exists for the benefit of human beings.

~Peter Singer

Knowing that we can control our own behaviour makes it more likely that we will.

~Peter Singer

If you earn a lot of money, you can give away a lot of money.

~Peter Singer

Sci-fi is often a metaphor. I think it's more the themes and questions

that science fiction raises rather than the exact predictions that should guide us.

~Peter Singer

We need to learn how to capture and kill wild fish humanely - or, if that is not possible, to find less cruel and more sustainable alternatives to eating them.

~Peter Singer

Ancient recipients of instant news probably couldn't do very much about it, for instance. Xerxes would still need three months to get his army together, and he might not get home for years.

~Peter Singer

When fish experience something that would cause other animals physical pain, they behave in ways suggestive of pain, and the change in behaviour may last several hours.

~Peter Singer

Every profession will have its rogues, of course, no matter what oaths are sworn, but many health care professionals have a real commitment to serving the best interests of their clients.

~Peter Singer

What one generation finds ridiculous, the next accepts; and the third shudders when it looks back on what the first did.

~Peter Singer

Putting the AR movement directly in opposition to the environmental movement, which should be our natural allies in fighting human arrogance and domination of the planet.

~Peter Singer

Probability is the guide of life, and of death, too.

~Peter Singer

If we ever do find a better system, I'll be happy to call myself an anti-capitalist.

~Peter Singer

We have a new generation of very rich people who want to do more with their money than buy a lot of expensive toys. They want to live meaningful lives.

~Peter Singer

Human beings are social animals. We were social before we were human.

~Peter Singer

Cheats prosper until there are enough who bear grudges against them to make sure they do not prosper.

~Peter Singer

In appropriate circumstances we are justified in using humans to achieve goals (or the goal of assisting animals).

~Peter Singer

If they [animals] were really to get the equal consideration that I believe they should, we wouldn't have commercial animal production in this country.

~Peter Singer

We may feel the pain of falling back from a level of affluence to which we have grown accustomed, but most people in developed countries are still, by historical standards, extraordinarily well off.

~Peter Singer

Ethics seems a morass which we have to cross, but get hopelessly

bogged in when we make the attempt.

~Peter Singer

The goal of maximizing the welfare of all may be better achieved by an ethic that accepts our inclinations and harnesses them so that, taken as a whole, the system works to everyone's advantage.

~Peter Singer

The principles of ethics come from our own nature as social, reasoning beings.

~Peter Singer

There can be no brotherhood when some nations indulge in previously unheard of luxuries, while others struggle to stave off famine.

~Peter Singer

If evolution is a struggle for survival, why hasn't it ruthlessly eliminated altruists, who seem to increase another's prospects of survival at the cost of their own?

~Peter Singer

Herbert Spencer is little read now. Philosophers do not regard him as a major thinker. Social Darwinism has long been in disrepute.

~Peter Singer

But I think the majority of cows, and even more so chickens and pigs, are leading pretty miserable lives.

~Peter Singer

That's a central part of philosophy, of ethics. What do I owe to strangers? What do I owe to my family? What is it to live a good life? Those are questions which we face as individuals.

~Peter Singer

Business ethics has always had problems that are distinct from those of other professions, such as medicine, law, engineering, dentistry, or nursing.

~Peter Singer

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