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Letters to the Editor

<SNIP>

Malonas comparisons odious

I abhor Mr. Malonas comparison of human slavery to animal ownership and/or companionship. Civil rights is not a suitable argument in regard to animals.

His ideals seem egalitarian in nature and are textbook animal-rights oriented. Our readers may have missed this when he referenced the writings of Gary Francione and Peter Singer, two well known animal rights philosophers. Singer's book, "Animal Liberation" is the widely regarded by Animal Rights activists as a "Bible."

Singer, hard utilitarian- minded, debated Judge Richard Posner of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit with a very similar argument as Mr. Malonas, in 2001 at Slate Magazine, saying that formerly unequal rights for gays, women and oppressed races were justified using the same set of intuitions.

Posner responded that equality in civil rights did not occur due to ethical arguments and that there was no basis for inequality based on any of those facts. He went on to say that facts, not ethical arguments, will drive equality and that animals must be considered property, legally, in order for us to have pets.

Of course the whole concept of owning any kind of pets is against the animal rights movement's agenda. They will not advertise this publicly as it would lessen monetary donations by well-meaning people who want to help animals but have no concept that they are helping take animals out of our lives.

Their agenda is to prohibit rodeos, horse racing, circuses, hunting, life-saving medical research using animals, raising of livestock for food, petting zoos, marine parks, breeding of purebred pets, any use of animals for industry, entertainment, sport or recreation and companionship.

The animal rights movement does have an extremist branch. ALF, Animal Liberation Front, is an example. In 2005 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security added them to its list of domestic terrorist threats. Just this week, an American animal rights activist, Daniel Andreas, San Diego, became the first "domestic terrorist" to be added to the FBI's "most wanted" terrorist list.

My animals are members of my family and the very idea that there are extremists out there who threaten members of my family is overwhelming. I maintain my stance and still hold hope that Nevadans have enough info needed to make well-informed decisions regarding law and their pets. It is also our jobs as constituents to keep our representatives abreast of all relevant information regarding any type of legislation that special interest groups try to slip under the radar.

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