Animal Rights or Animal Welfare

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There is a scary trend taking hold, Animal Rights. On the surface, it sounds good. However, is the AR movement truly thinking in the best interest of animal owners and even animals? What about Animal Welfare, is it the same as AR? How do you tell the difference?

Briefly, Animal Rights groups (AR) wish to end all animal "exploitation." This includes but is not limited to animals in:

- Any research
- Food (produced by such as eggs or produced from such as steak)
- Clothing (even products not leading to the death of the animal such as wool)
- Working (even service animals for the disabled and police dogs)
- Competition (even dog and cat shows, various trials, etc)
- Entertainment (rodeos, movies, hunting, zoos – even those for conservation and preservation)
- Companionship
- Education (even 4-H, FFA, Ruritan Clubs, Dog Scouts)

Animal Welfare groups want humane care and management regardless of the use of the animal, if said use is within the law. Therefore, true animal welfare is not anti-meat or companionship but they are for education as opposed to strict legislation.

Telling the two apart may not be that easy. How do you know if a group is AR or AW? Many use Welfare in the name when they are truly Rights. Look for catchwords: "enslavement", "guardianship", "protectorship", and "exploitation." If you see words such as these, the group may lean towards animal rights. However, if the group talks about using education as opposed to legislation, the leanings are towards animal welfare.

There are gray areas and deceptions the AR movement will use, even if it may result in the death of the animal or damage to the environment. The AR movement is damaging to the rights of good pet owners. True AR is against anything that puts an animal at the mercy of humans, for whatever reason.

Support animal welfare groups, true AW groups, if you wish to keep your pet, working companion, livelihood.