



Factsheet – Useful Quotes & Prayers

Quotations

General

When he [God] became man, and thus exalted man in the beauty of God, and consequently exalted all the creatures in him, since in uniting himself with man he united himself with the nature of them all. Wherefore said the same Son of God... 'I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself.' And thus, in this lifting up of the incarnation of his Son, and in the glory of his resurrection according to the flesh, not only did the Father beautify the creatures in part, but we can say that he left them all clothed with beauty and dignity.

– St John of the Cross¹

Now what is it that moves our very hearts and sickens us so much as cruelty shown to poor animals? They are innocent and powerless, the victims of cowardice and tyranny. There is something so very dreadful, so Satanic in tormenting those who have never harmed us, and who cannot defend themselves, who are utterly in our power.

– John Henry Newman²

Live Exports

He [St Francis] met a man with two little lambs trussed up and hanging over his shoulder that he was taking to market to sell. When Francis heard the lambs bleating, he was moved to pity, and he went up and caressed them like a mother showing pity for her weeping child. And he said to the man, "Why are you carrying my brother lambs about trussed up like that and causing them such suffering?" The man replied, "I have to, for I need the money." ...he [St Francis]...instructed the man never to sell them or do them harm, but to feed them and care for them and do everything he could to ensure their well-being.

– Thomas of Celano's Life of St Francis of Assisi³

Intensive farming

A brute is an animal no less sensible of pain than a man. He has similar nerves and organs of sensation; and his cries and groans, in case of violent impressions upon his body, though he cannot utter his complaints by speech, or human voice, are as strong indications to us of his sensibility of pain, as the cries and groans of a human being, whose language we do not understand. Now, as pain is what we are all averse to, our own sensibility of pain should teach us to commiserate it in others, to alleviate it if possible, but never wantonly or unmeritedly to inflict it.

– Humphry Primatt⁴

Companion animals

The dog is not gifted with a share of reason; but with him instinct has the power of reason. The dog has learnt by nature the secret of elaborate inferences, which sages of the world after long years of study, have hardly been able to disentangle. ...Does not the gratitude of the dog shame all who are ungrateful to their benefactors?

– St Basil the Great⁵

Animal experimentation

We may feel that though objective superiority is rightly claimed for men, yet that very superiority ought partly to consist in not behaving like a vivisector.

– C.S. Lewis⁶



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Endangered species

It is necessary and urgent that following the example of the poor man (St Francis) one decides to abandon inconsiderate forms of domination, capture and custody with respect to all creatures.

– Pope John Paul II⁷

Badger cull

We must never do evil that good may come of it.

– William Penn

Prayers

O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers the animals to whom thou hast given the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realise that they live, not for us alone, but for themselves and for thee, and that they have the sweetness of life.

– St Basil the Great⁸

A collect for Animal Welfare Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, you are the creator and redeemer of all things, and have made us the stewards of the earth and its creatures:

guide and strengthen us by your Spirit that we may faithfully serve you in our care of our fellow creatures and all that you have made;

through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Lord, we thank you for the world you have made and in which we live. Hear our prayers for your creation.

Lord Jesus, show us how to love and to look after the things that you have given into our care

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Lord, teach us to see creation through your eyes and to recognise and to appreciate the works of your hands in the things around us.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Lord, bless the earth and all its creatures. Comfort those that suffer and know fear or pain. Give wisdom to those in power, that the environment may be protected and the earth's resources used wisely and for the benefit of all.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Lord teach us to be merciful, as you are towards us.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Lord we thank you for the life you have given to this world. Help us to live in peace with our fellow creatures, that we might show your love to the whole world. **Amen.**

– from a collection by Jennifer Brown