

3736907 SHES/M : MAJOR : ETHICAL STUDIES; M.A. (ETHICAL STUDIES)  
 KEY WORDS : WESTERN ETHICS/THERAVEDA BUDDHISM/THAI  
 SCIENTIST/ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

KAJITPHUN AMORNPHAN : A STUDY OF WESTERN ETHICAL  
 THEORIES IN COMPARISON WITH THERAVEDA BUDDHISM AND THAI  
 SCIENTISTS' ATTITUDES ON ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION. THESIS  
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The thesis is a study of western ethical theories in comparison with the Buddhist views and those of Thai scientists with regard to animal experimentation. In the study it is found that western rationalists' approach to animal experimentation is based on the belief that animals are objects which man can manipulate in whatever way he wants, for his own benefit. This view is shared by many utilitarianists who justify animal experimentation by the principle of the benefit of the greatest number. However, there are some western thinkers who, believing in equal rights between man and animal, see animal experimentation as exploitation and a violation of animals' right to life. Although Theravada Buddhism does not teach the equality between man and animal, it disapproves of animal experimentation, considering it as an unwholesome and violent act. Thai Buddhist scientists, on the contrary, accepting the present needs of science and medicine, insist on the necessity of animal experimentation for the advancement of scientific knowledge and human benefit. Nevertheless all their experimentation is conducted with ethical consciousness e.g. they use animal experimentation only when there is no other better alternative, and animals are treated with compassion as living beings and not as objects of manipulation and exploitation.