

The thesis is dealing with the moral status of experimental animals in biomedical research. Aside of the sociological analysis of the problem, the aim of this work is to introduce a new field in social science Animal Studies, which is focused on elaborating the status of animals in human society and the relationships between humans and other living beings.

In the first part, the author outlines the development of theories of moral status and evaluates the possibility of their application to the ethical problems related to nonhuman creatures.

Practical part of the text is focused on the way the animals are objectified by laboratory personnel for the purpose of their instrumental use. The following chapter on the socialization of scientist focuses on the way the people are prepared and trained in emotional distance from the animals-instruments. Moreover, the author presents the process of desensitizing future scientist and discouraging individuals who are unable to accept specific concepts stabilized within the community of researchers who use animals. In the following part of the text the author describes the process of social construction of experimental animals as deindividualized objects representing the part of the laboratory and the negative effects that the consequent structure causes to animal well-being. The relating effects resulting from the nature of modern society such as the bureaucratization of scientific institutions are also elaborated. In the final part of the work, the author describes situations in which respective mechanism of objectification fail, scientists develop pet-like relationships with the animals, and consider the moral questions about their use in research.