

## **Abstract (English)**

This thesis deals with the moral status of experimental animals in biomedical research. Besides the sociological analysis of the problem, the aim of this work is to introduce a new field in social sciences called 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.

The practical part of the text is focused on the way animals are objectified by laboratory personnel for the purpose of instrumental use. The following chapter on the socialization of scientists focuses on the way people are prepared and trained in emotional distancing from the animals-instruments. Moreover, the author presents the process of desensitizing future scientists and discouraging individuals who are unable to accept specific concepts stabilized within the community of researchers who use animals. In the next part of the text the author describes the process of social construction of experimental animals as de-individualized objects representing the part of the laboratory as well as 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 mechanisms of objectification fail, scientists develop pet-like relationships with the animals, and consider the moral questions about their use in research.