

Against Speciesism

What's Bad About This?



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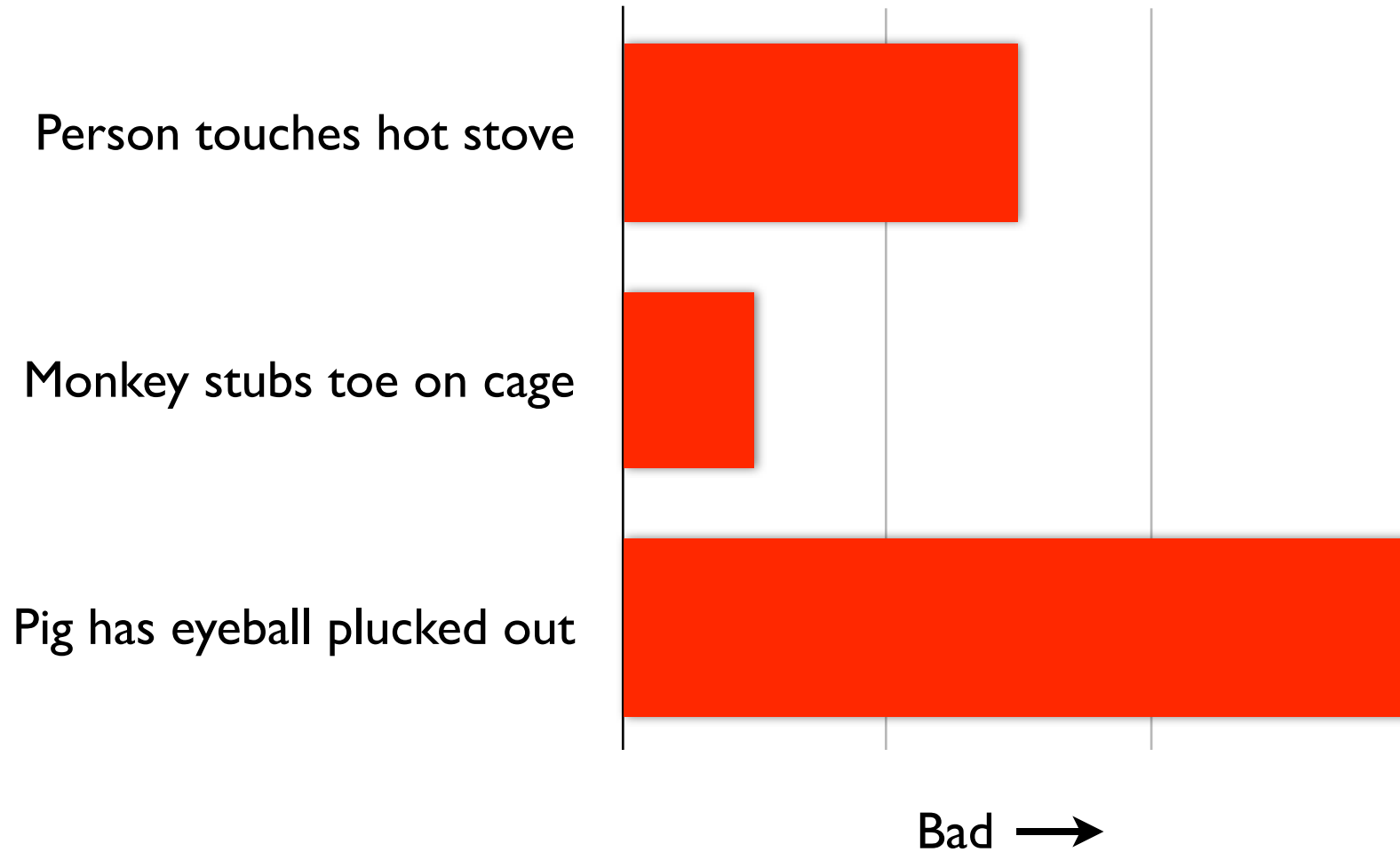
All Animals are Equal

False

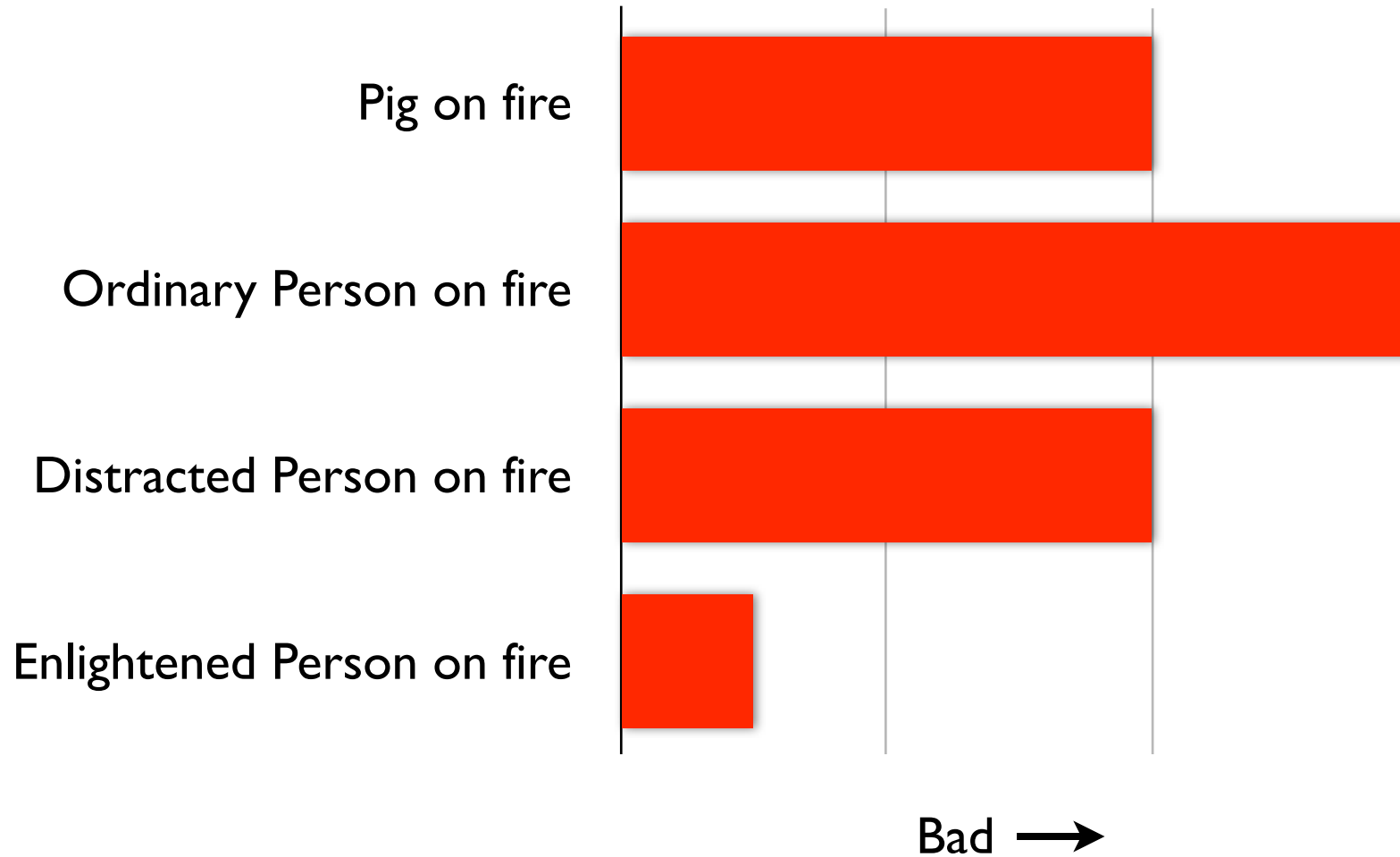
All Suffering is Equal

False

How Bad is It?



How Bad is It?



Equal Amounts of Suffering Have
Equal Moral Significance

True

Singer's Argument for Animal Liberation

1. If it is morally wrong to assign unequal value to the interests of humans based on skin color or sex, then it is morally wrong to assign unequal value to the interests of animals (humans are animals) based on species membership.
2. It is morally wrong to assign unequal value to the interests of humans based either on the color of their skin or on their sex.
3. Therefore, it is morally wrong to assign unequal value to the interests of animals based on species membership.

Singer's Challenge

- ④ Find a difference between human animals and non-human animals that justifies counting the suffering and death of non-human animals for less than that of humans.

Attempts to Meet the Challenge

I. Humanness

Attempts to Meet the Challenge

- X** 1. Humanness
- 2. Naturalness

Attempts to Meet the Challenge

X 1. Humanness

X 2. Naturalness

3. Intelligence

Attempts to Meet the Challenge

X 1. Humanness

X 2. Naturalness

X 3. Intelligence

What would Singer say?

What's wrong with enslaving a white man, keeping him under horrific conditions for several years, and then killing him – all merely to satisfy one's taste for human meat?

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Conclusion:

1. Speciesism (about experience) is immoral.
2. We need to reevaluate our practices involving non-human animals:
 1. Factory farming
 2. Animal testing (cosmetics, pesticides, cleaning agents, medicines, etc.)

Environmental Costs of Farming Animals

- More than 50% of water used in U.S. is used to raise animals for food.
- 2,500 gallons of H₂O needed to produce 1 pound of meat vs. 25 gallons to produce 1 pound of wheat.
- A vegetarian diet requires 300 gallons of water per day vs. 4,000 gallons for a meat-based diet.
- Farming animals is the largest source of water pollution in the U.S.
- Animals raised for food produce 130 times the excrement of the entire human population (87,000 pounds per second).
- More than 1/3 of all fuel burned in U.S. is used to raise animals for food.
- Producing a single hamburger patty requires (i) enough fuel required to drive a small car 20 miles and (ii) enough water for 17 showers.
- 1 acre of trees per year are destroyed to support a single meat-eater's diet.
- More than 50% of the rain forests in S.America have been cleared for cattle ranching; 55 square feet per 1/4 pound of beef produced.
- 80% of corn, 95% of oats, grown in U.S. is used to feed livestock.
- World's cattle alone consume enough calories to sustain 8.7 billion humans.