

# INSIDE THE MIND OF AN ANIMAL

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# INTRODUCTION

- ✿ What is it like in the mind of an animal?
- ✿ Is it like 2001 or perhaps like being really drunk?
- ✿ Are they conscious or just acting purely on instinct?



# INTRODUCTION

- ✿ Insects are attracted to brightly coloured flowers
- ✿ But take a minute to think about what this actually means



# INTRODUCTION

- ✿ But then again, these days we have shit like this



# INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The problem with modern art is this...
- ❖ Anyone who likes it isn't actually an art fan at all, they're just pretentious



# INTRODUCTION

- ✿ This is the Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo
- ✿ It took him 4 years to complete



# INTRODUCTION

- ✿ This debate has been raging on for years now
- ✿ So remember these lines...
- ✿ “He completely proved it” ...and...
- ✿ “You just had to be at the talk”



# BEFORE WE BEGIN

- ✿ The AHS National Convention took place in Oxford on February 27th
- ✿ The Blackwell in Oxford boasts to being the largest bookshop in the UK



# CONSCIOUSNESS

- ✿ Humans are consciousness
- ✿ Humans are animals
- ✿ Are animals consciousness?
- ✿ Well we know at least a subset of animals are



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ✿ From an atheist worldview, it should be a scale with other intelligent animals
- ✿ But from a theist worldview we would expect qualities unique to the human race



# SO, ANIMALS

- ✿ Obviously some animals are intelligent and conscious
- ✿ Because we're all animals, whether you're a human, a bear, a fish...



# SO, ANIMALS

✿ ...or even a hobbit



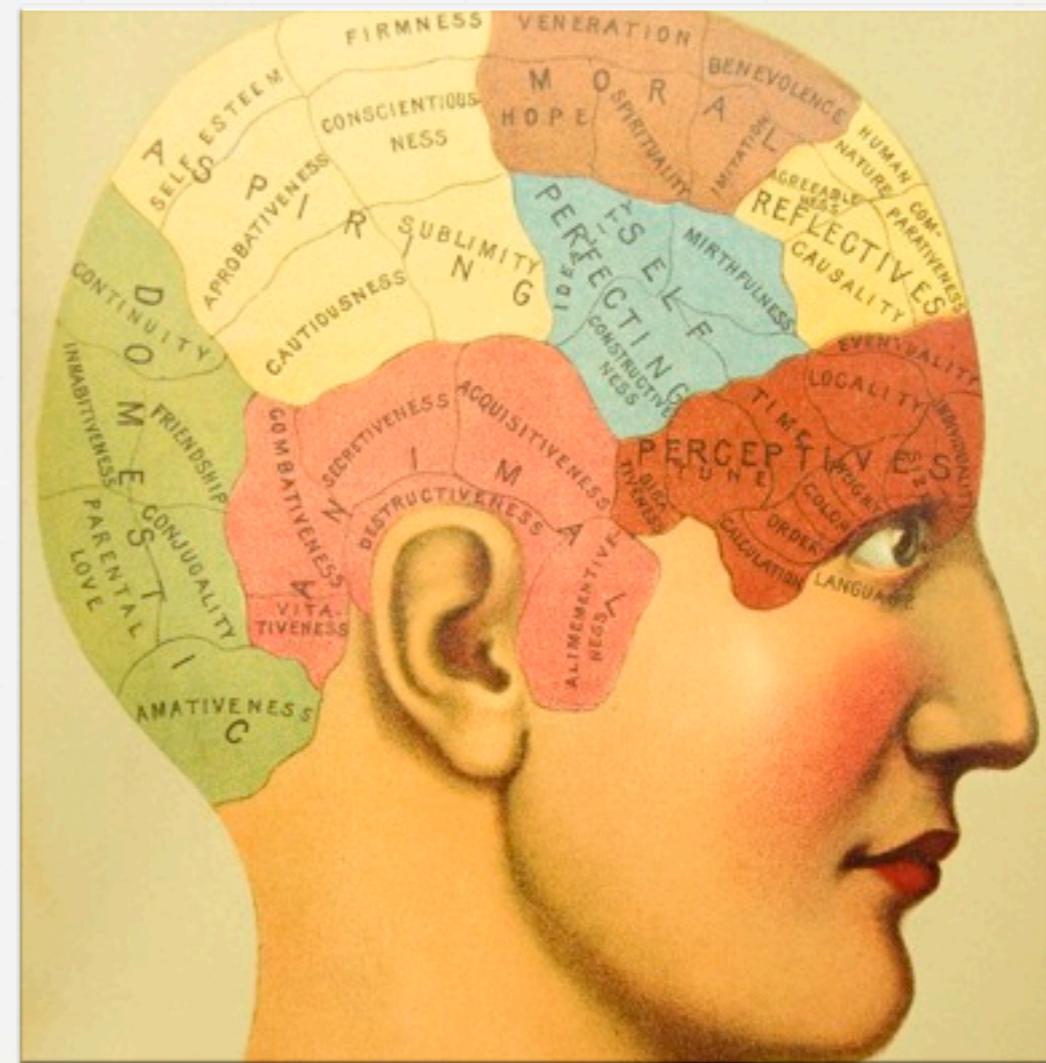
# DEFINITIONS

- ✿ Consciousness is “subjective experience or awareness or wakefulness or the executive control system of the mind”
- ✿ Sentience is “the ability to feel or perceive subjectively”



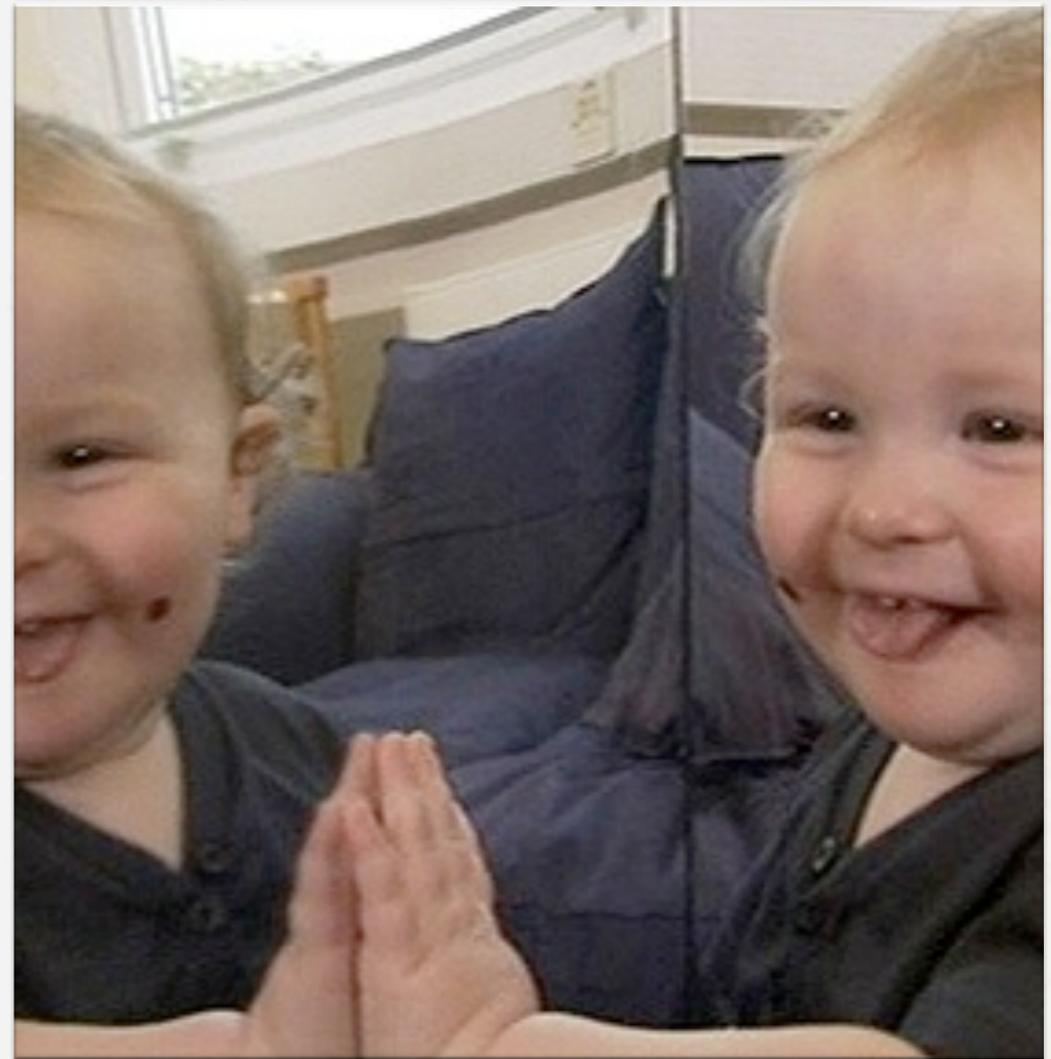
# CONSCIOUSNESS

- ✿ What even is this consciousness thing?
- ✿ It's all very confusing
- ✿ Luckily we have come up with a few tests



# THE MIRROR TEST

- ✿ The industry standard
- ✿ Show them themselves in the mirror
- ✿ Then stick a spot on their face and show them again
- ✿ Do they spot the spot?



# HYPOTHESIS

- ✿ Do they have language and social structure?
- ✿ Can they recognise themselves?
- ✿ Can they conceptualise problems?
- ✿ Do they display emotions, empathy?



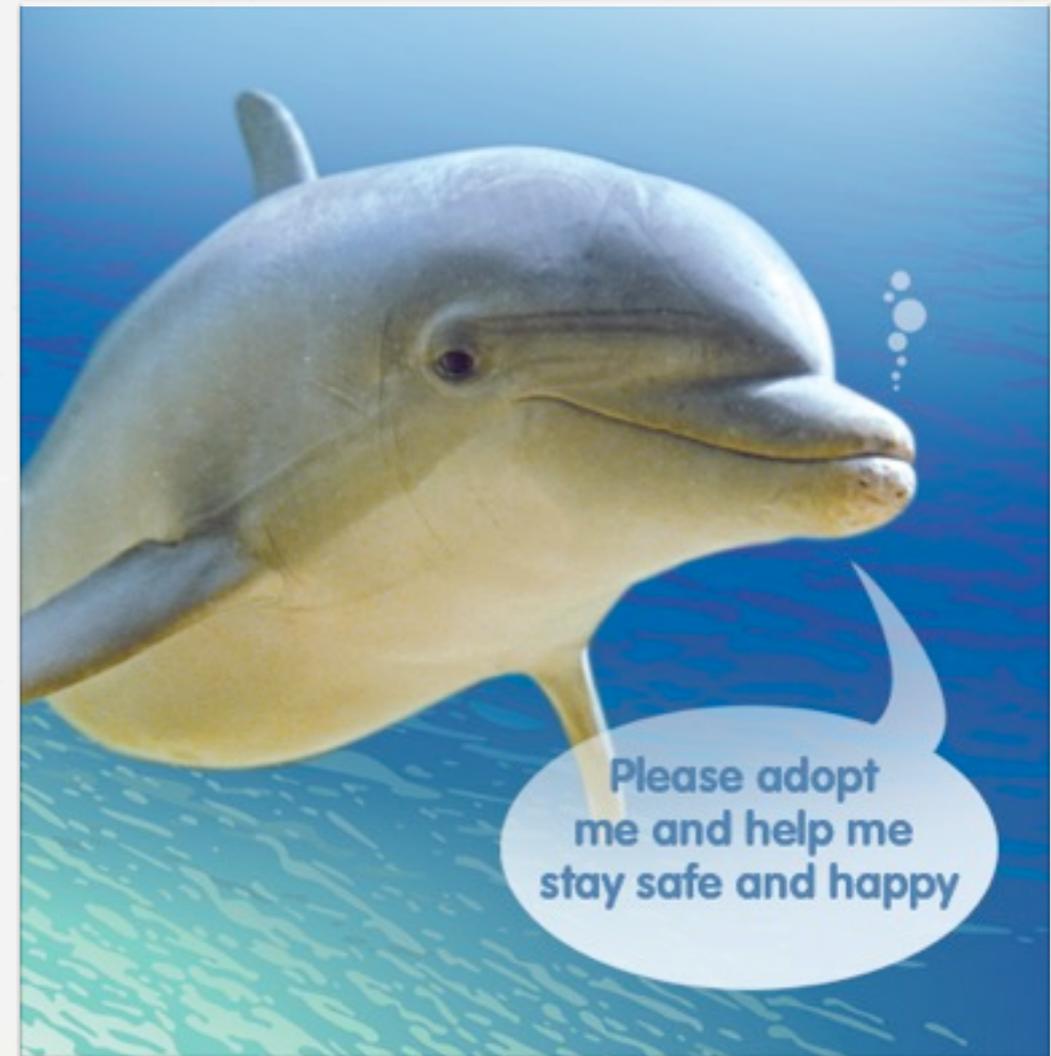
# DOLPHINS

- ❁ Not an intelligent species
- ❁ They live in pods of up to 12 individuals
- ❁ They care for each other and nurse the ill
- ❁ They even help other species from time to time



# DOLPHINS

- ✿ They have rules in their society
- ✿ They have a sophisticated language
- ✿ They even have signature whistles - names



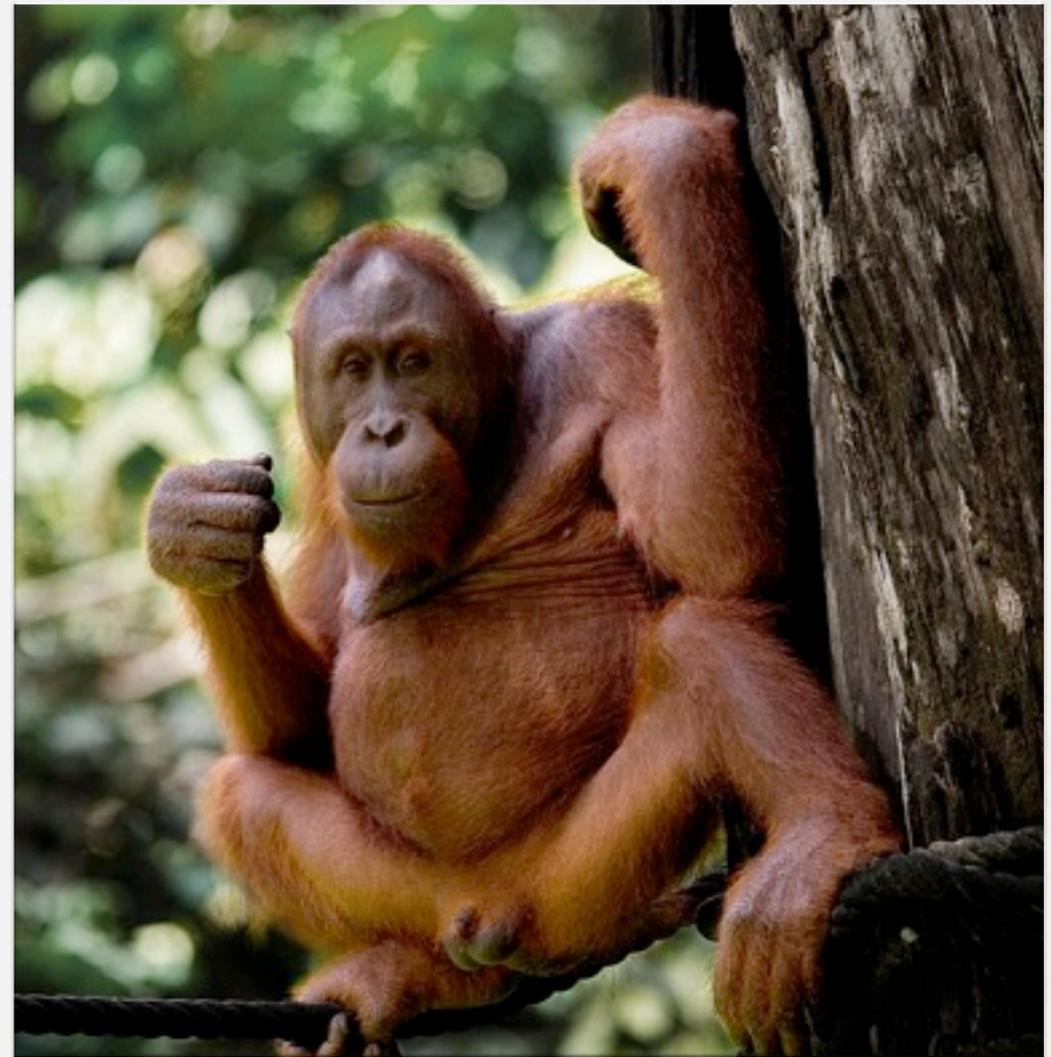
# DOLPHINS

- ✿ They use tools for example using sponges to project their snouts while foraging for food
- ✿ And they even teach these skills to their young



# ORANGUTANS

- ✿ One of our closest living relatives
- ✿ You can tell from the similarity to Norm
- ✿ This one here is obviously practicing his martial arts



# ORANGUTANS

- ❁ Orangutans have a long a well documented history of manufacturing tools
- ❁ There has even been evidence of basic experimentation and refinement



# CHIMPS

- ❁ Very social creatures, they spend their time travelling in small groups but sometimes come together with other groups to form a larger group
- ❁ So basically it's like a group joining a raid party



# GORILLAS

- ✿ They may look big and scary but they are actually no more frightening than a killer robot or nuclear war
- ✿ Indeed in many ways they are much friendlier than either



# BONOBOS

- ✿ Capable of “altruism, compassion, empathy, kindness, patience and sensitivity.”
- ✿ They also have a matriarchal culture
- ✿ And lots and lots of sex



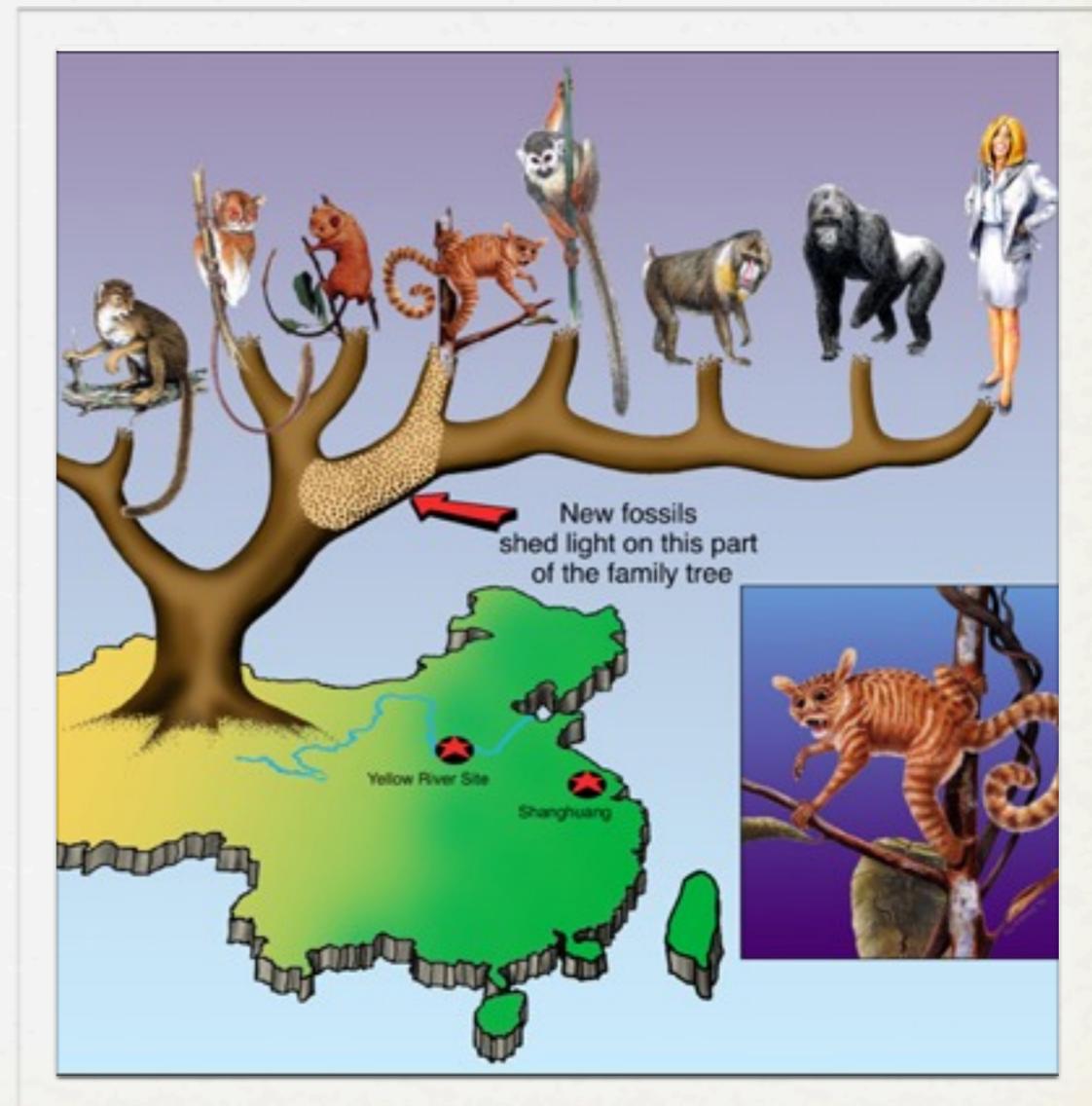
# DOES IT LIVE UP?

- ✿ Language?
- ✿ Emotions?
- ✿ Manufacturing?
- ✿ Problem solving?
- ✿ Societies?
- ✿ Education?



# CONCLUSIONS

- ✿ The higher mammals have the basics of everything we have in our society
- ✿ Therefore they must have a similar level of consciousness
- ✿ Which is what we would expect from evolution



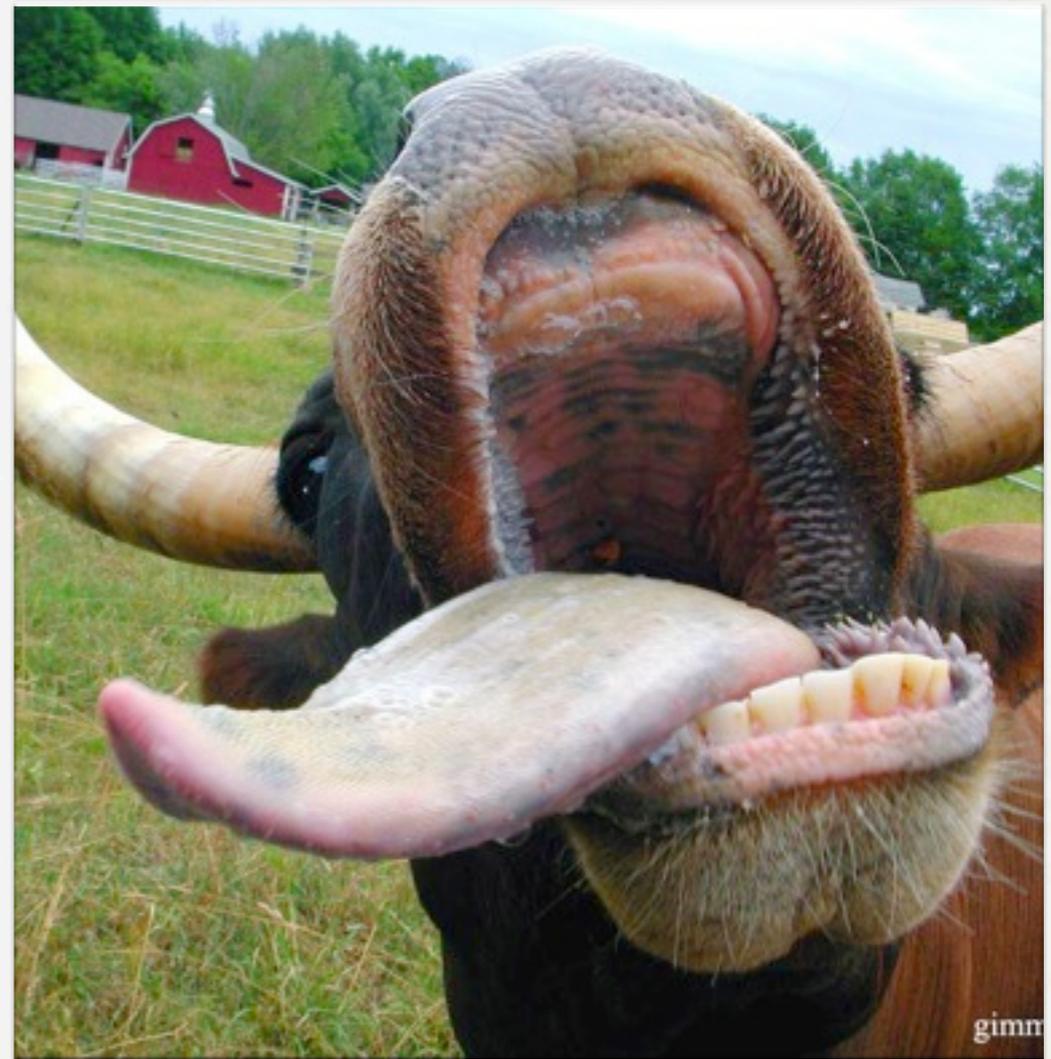
# CONSEQUENCES

- ✿ Make no mistake, when you eat an animal, you are eating a previously conscious animal
- ✿ But then again, it does taste really, really good
- ✿ And of course, we don't actually eat higher apes



# CONSEQUENCES

- ❁ Some people say that animals can't have rights as they don't have responsibilities
- ❁ This people are, of course, idiots



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# FINAL THOUGHTS

- ❁ Dismissing animals are mindless drones is wholly inaccurate
- ❁ Not only that but it is speciesist
- ❁ And makes no sense what so ever in a humanist worldview

