

Pope Benedict XVI as Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger:

"Certainly, a sort of industrial use of creatures, so that geese are fed in such a way as to produce as large a liver as possible, or hens live so packed together that they become just caricatures of birds, this degrading of living creatures to a commodity seems to me in fact to contradict the relationship of mutuality that comes across in the Bible." —from Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, God and the World: A Conversation with Peter Seewald, (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2002), 78-79.

Billy Graham recently said:

"Let me assure you that God is concerned about our care of every part of His creation - including the animals. After all, He made them, and ultimately they belong to Him. The Bible says, 'For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills'" (Psalm 50:10).

Right Reverend John Bryson Chane, Bishop of Washington

Our faithful stewardship of creation includes being mindful of the animals entrusted to our care. The principles that underlie the All Creatures Great and Small campaign are consistent with the religious spirit that compels us to show them our mercy and regard. More humane and sustainable dietary choices can be a powerful testimony of our faith and service to the Lord, especially in a time when the whole of creation depends so heavily upon our goodwill.

Imam Muhammad Haggag Ali, Executive Director, Vice President, Islamic Society of North America

The underlying premise of the All Creatures Great and Small Campaign, the compassionate treatment of all animals, including farm animals, is consistent with the highest principles of Muslim belief and practice. The Quran bids us to treat animals with respect and not to abuse them. It teaches us that animals are communities in their own right, that animals speak and praise God in their own way, and that God provides for their sustenance just as He does for our own. These principles are reinforced by the words ascribed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), to the effect that "Whoever is kind to the Creatures of God is kind to himself." Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) prohibited the mistreatment of animals and praised those who showed compassion towards them.

Fr. John Dear, SJ, Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, New Mexico

It is simply untenable for any thoughtful person to support the unimaginable suffering perpetuated by today's factory farms. The nonviolent Jesus was a model of compassion. He loved all people, all creatures, and all of creation. People of faith should do the same. We need to become people of compassion and nonviolence in every aspect of life, to reverence all people, all creatures and all of creation at every level. I urge every person of faith and conscience to put compassion and nonviolence first, even with our daily food choices, that we can begin anew to welcome a new world of peace.

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda MD

Compassion – rachamim in Hebrew – is perhaps the greatest virtue we can cultivate. Denial, on the other hand, is among the most insidious challenges we face, for which Yom Kippur helps us. Too often we strive to be compassionate, yet remain in denial about the reality of our daily choices. The Humane Society's "All Creatures Great and Small" campaign helps us confront the implications of our choices, and refine our sense of compassion, starting with a small step -- addressing a common ingredient (especially in Ashkenazi cooking!), which too often comes to our tables via confinement and cruelty – 'the incredible, edible egg.'

Brian McLaren, renowned author, speaker and pastor

In the beginning, our sacred texts tell us, God created this beautiful creation, including land, sea, and sky teeming with creatures that have been entrusted into human care. Whether through destruction of habitat or inhumane treatment of farm animals, we're failing to uphold that trust. The HSUS seeks to mobilize and motivate compassionate people to show greater respect for the dignity of our fellow creatures in this sacred creation....helping humanity be more humane. This is a mission worth supporting! BrianMcLaren.net

Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Haifa

I wholeheartedly endorse the campaign of The HSUS. It is a basic value of our Jewish religion and tradition to refrain from 'Tza'ar Ba'alei Chaim,' or to refrain from inflicting pain and suffering on any living creature ...He has made all that is alive and He is the source of all life. Let us try to follow His ways and be compassionate to every living creature.

The Right Rev. Marc Andrus, the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California

The Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act is a modest but important measure that will simply give veal calves, breeding pigs and egg-laying hens enough room to engage in basic movements. God entrusts animals to our care, denying them the ability even to turn around is surely not an example of faithful stewardship.

Rabbi Dr. Elliot Dorff, Chairman of the Rabbinical Assembly's committee on Jewish Law and Standards and professor at the American Jewish University

The principle embodied in Proposition 2 – that all animals, including those we rely upon for our sustenance, are entitled to basic kindness -- is a principle with deep and lasting roots in Judaism, which teaches us to be active in the prevention of animal suffering. The well-being of animals is our responsibility, and a part of our covenant with God, and we are not permitted to treat them as if they were not living beings with basic needs and interests worthy of our consideration. Jacob, Moses, and David were shepherds, and the Talmud tells us that this is why Moses was chosen for his sacred mission. For millennia, Jewish leaders have emphasized the importance of human consideration and kindness toward animals, consistent with the ways of our God, whose mercies extend to us all.

Jack W. Hayford, Chancellor of The King's Seminary

As an evangelical Christian, I not only seek to steward the Gospel of Christ to all humankind, but to seek to influence the stewardship of God's Creation unto the benefit of every creature. Proposition 2 is an opportunity for thoughtful believers in Christ to demonstrate this biblical responsibility.

Rev. Dr. Richard Mouw, President of Fuller Seminary

I am supporting Proposition 2 as a way of advocating responsible stewardship of God's creation. It is a modest measure that simply seeks to alleviate the unnecessary suffering of millions of farm animals in California. I have often said that chickens (and other animals!) have a God-given right to 'strut their stuff.'

California Council of Churches IMPACT

This initiative proposes what many livestock producer associations are already planning – introducing humane treatment of farm animals. The exception is poultry. The law does not require 'cage free' poultry raising but does implement adequate cage size. The economic impact on eggs in other states with similar laws and by projection in California is about 1 cent per egg. Taking care of those in food insecurity is essential. Care for God's creation, including animals, is equally an important aspect of a humane society.