Factory Farming

Name

Institution

Qn. 1.

I agree that animal experiences ought to be included in the moral evaluation of factory farming. That is because one of the main foundations of utilitarianism is taking into consideration the interest and plight of all the parties that are involved in a situation. Therefore, given that animals in the factories are exploited by humans for food it is vital to include their experiences. Additionally, for the case of utilitarianism, it must take into account every ounce of happiness and suffering before making a deliberation. Hence, in this case, the experiences of the animals in the factory farms, as well as the experiences of humans who cannot afford food, will be taken into account. In that way, the most plausible decision will be arrived at while making sure that everyone is involved.

Qn. 2.

The important human benefits of factory farming do not outweigh the disutility of animal suffering. In this instance, the suffering that animals like chicken and turkey undergo in the factory farms cannot be justified by the pleasure that humans get from eating meat. Additionally, factory farming of animals will only benefit humans and hence does not benefit the majority (Francione, 2003). Furthermore, because it is going to require a lot of suffering to create the momentary happiness of tasting meat among humans then factory farming does not increase happiness but actually decreases it. That being the case, factory farming does not align with the concept of utilitarianism. For that reason, factory farming of animals such as chicken is not moral and should be discouraged.

Qn. 3.

In the utilitarian context, the best choice is the one that creates benefits for the majority. That being the case, the problem of some parents not getting enough money to buy meat that is not farmed in a factory should be taken into consideration. Even so, a question should be posed, are those living under the poverty line the majority? In this instance, they are not. Hence, in case factory farming of animals is chosen for their sake then the decision will not respect the theory of utilitarianism. Factory farming of animals is only acceptable when it creates more good that the suffering it brings. Such a scenario is virtually impossible. Furthermore, humans have the ability to live a full life without having to kill or harm animals. Therefore, it is a matter of choice for humans. In addition to utilitarianism, there are other differences between animals and humans that should be taken into account, for example, sentiment and morals. In this case, humans have both sentiment and personal morals. For that reason, they understand that their happiness should not create suffering to other species.

Qn. 4.

There are other morally acceptable options to factory farming. Firstly, it is vegetarianism. In this instance, a well-curated vegetarian diet will sustain a human being in a healthy state (Pluhar, 2009). Depending on a person’s vegetarian beliefs some bit of eggs and milk can be allowed. Secondly, it is buying meat from humane animal farms. There are numerous small scale family farms that practice sustainable agriculture. In fact, the animals that are reared in such conditions have fewer pathogens as compared to those that are farmed in factories. Lastly, it is going for in-vitro meat. This is an emerging technology whereby a single cell from an animal is developed in a lab into a slab of meat instead of having to kill the whole animal.

References

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