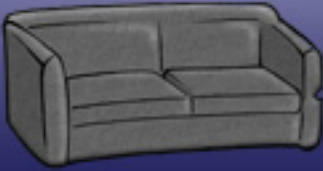


# Spot The Difference



**In the eyes of the law there isn't one. A sofa, an umbrella and a dog are all items of property. All animals other than humans (despite living rich emotion filled lives) have been regarded as property since the time when they were thought to be unfeeling machines, merely responding to stimuli. No-one pretends this is the case now, since science has conclusively shown the vast majority of other animals to be experiencing individuals.**

**As a result 'welfare laws' and 'standards' can only protect animals if they happen to protect the interests of their owners in some way. All our society's welfare laws of the last 200 years have done nothing but make the public happy that animals are being used 'properly', whilst forgetting to mention that, if we do not need to, we should not be using them at all.**

**An animal, if she does experience her own life, has interests in her life which reach far beyond her usefulness to others.**

**Law changes only to reflect society, and so the only way to change this misrepresentation of what other animals are is for us to stop treating other animals as property and begin regarding them as legal 'persons'.**

**Not persons in the same way as humans are, but persons in the sense that they experience life rather than being machines bereft of emotion and suffering. We have known this to be the case for many, many years and it is time our actions changed to reflect this.**

**No-one is under the impression that they need a jacket made of leather, and no-one can pretend that we need to test cosmetics on animals - not when so many companies have eliminated animal testing. There exists no nutritional reason for us to eat any animal foods - and in fact plant-based alternatives have begun creeping into stores to ease the transition away from them. The emerging health and environmental arguments against animal farming are persuasive, but only strengthen the real reason not to use those who have interests in living their own lives which go beyond their utility to us.**

**If the law is to be fair to other animals we must first make changes in our own lives.**

**Further information can be found at [veganuk.net](http://veganuk.net).**