Race and the Animal

Dear All, I’m very much looking forward to discussing these texts with you! I attach some questions (with corresponding page numbers) for you to consider as you work through the readings. These are intended to be a guide – They are not a test! Please bring a hard copy of your responses to our discussion.

All my Best,
Maggie

Marjorie Spiegel, *The Dreaded Comparison: Human and Animal Slavery*

Chapter One: *An Historical Understanding*

1. What does Spiegel argue has led us to “find ourselves in a time when comparison to a non-human animal has ceased to be an honor and is instead hurled as an insult” (16-17)?

2. What does Spiegel suggest is the problem with an “either-or” approach to violence and oppression (18-19)?

3. Is Spiegel suggesting that “the oppressions experienced by blacks and animals have taken identical forms?” What is she suggesting (27-29)?

Chapter Eight: *In Defense of Slavery*

1. What “rationalization” does Spiegel argue has “long been” used to defend the slavery of both human and non-human animals (73-75)?

2. What examples of “propaganda” does she outline in this regard (75-76)?
3. What is the ‘Toilet Assumption?’ In other words, how does Spiegel think many deal with the “reality” of both racism and speciesism (77-78)?

Tashee Meadows, *Because They Matter*
In A. Breeze Harper, Ed., *Sistah Vegan: Black Female Vegans Speak on Food, Identity, Health, and Society*

1. Why did Meadows decide to become vegan (150)?

2. In what ways does Meadows suggest that “the animals’ suffering resonated with [her]” (151)?

3. What does Meadows think “we” should “resist” (153-154)?