



APA Position Statement on Demonstrations, Protests, Civil and Uncivil Disobedience

First and foremost the APA firmly believes in a person's right to protest. Having ourselves been involved in both civil and uncivil disobedience we appreciate and fully understand protestors bear significant burdens and risks, such as arrest, criminal sanctions, and injury in doing so.

Secondly, the APA stands uncompromisingly for the best interests of all animals and what will give them the best outcome. In our work for animal rights, the APA accepts any incremental reduction in suffering as both worthwhile in its own right and also as a critical step along the way towards the abolition of all animal slavery. History tells us that no meaningful change has ever been achieved other than incrementally.

Thirdly, the APA endeavours to pursue well targeted acts of resistance (civil and uncivil), even everyday small acts, that have a reasonable chance of success and seek to achieve the least harmful outcome for both people and animals.

In short, we believe the success of resistance should not be accepted at face value, instead on whether and how well it gets its message across. We urge other animal rights groups to be conscious that some protests can be counter-productive by the use of problematic tactics and could potentially undermine the very outcomes we are fighting for.

Finally, for the animal rights movement to evolve, activists should be allowed to challenge ourselves respectfully without being subjected to sanctions by other animal activists. APA encourages all activists to actively participate in debates and not to be put off from doing so. We believe this will not only help invigorate the animal rights movement but also strengthen the movement's values of freedom, tolerance, respect, fairness and compassion.