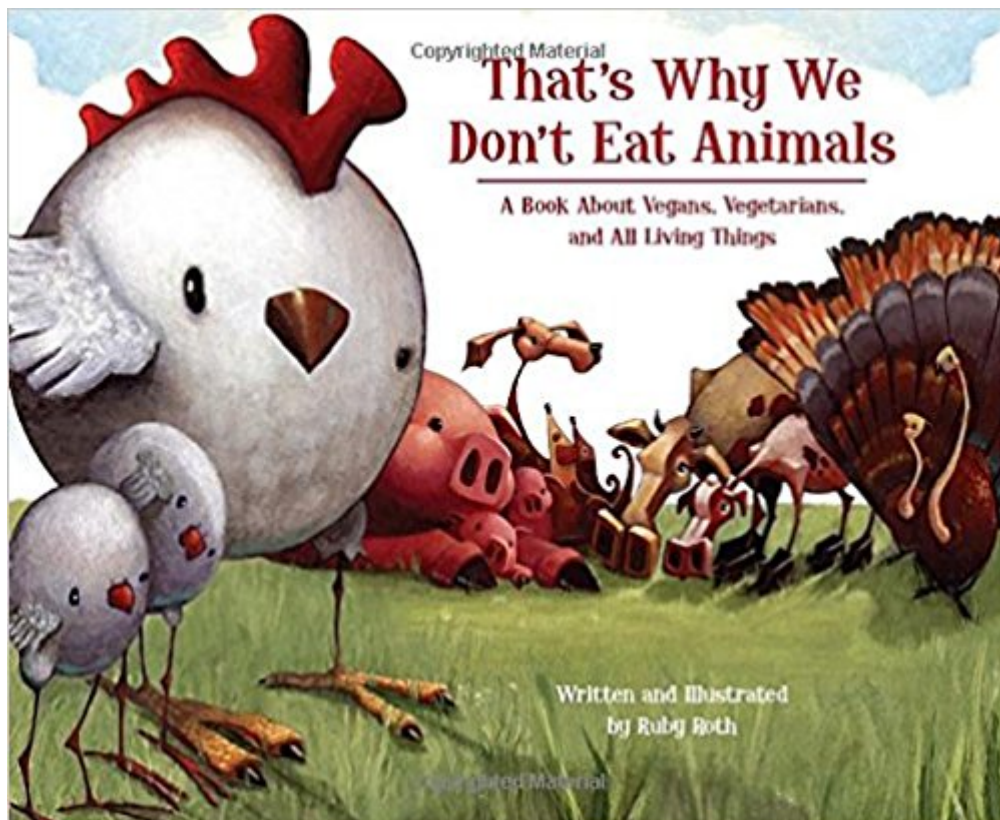




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That's Why We Don't Eat Animals: A Book About Vegans, Vegetarians, And All Living Things



Synopsis

That's Why We Don't Eat Animals uses colorful artwork and lively text to introduce vegetarianism and veganism to early readers (ages six to ten). Written and illustrated by Ruby Roth, the book features an endearing animal cast of pigs, turkeys, cows, quail, turtles, and dolphins. These creatures are shown in both their natural state—rooting around, bonding, nuzzling, cuddling, grooming one another, and charming each other with their family instincts and rituals—and in the terrible conditions of the factory farm. The book also describes the negative effects eating meat has on the environment. A separate section entitled "What Else Can We Do?" suggests ways children can learn more about the vegetarian and vegan lifestyles, such as: "Celebrate Thanksgiving with a vegan feast" or "Buy clothes, shoes, belts, and bags that are not made from leather or other animal skins or fur." This compassionate, informative book offers both an entertaining read and a resource to inspire parents and children to talk about a timely, increasingly important subject. That's Why We Don't Eat Animals official website: <http://wedonteatanimals.com/>

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: North Atlantic Books; 1 edition (May 26, 2009)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 175 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #52,135 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Diet & Nutrition #71 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diets & Weight Loss > Vegetarian #82 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Diseases

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

Customer Reviews

Some may consider this an attempt to indoctrinate the young, but in truth it's a courageous stab at a serious topic inherently hinted at through the anthropomorphizing of animals

so prevalent in children's books. By contrasting animal behavior in the wild with that of their counterparts in farms or factories, Roth makes a stark case that by harvesting sentient beings we are stripping them of their rights and natural desires. For example, wild turkeys fly to the treetops to roost for the night, but factory-farm turkeys are simply fattened until their wings become useless. Roth uses her own illustrations rather than photos, but she wisely does not make her animals too cute. Be warned: her depictions of poultry confined within filthy cages, while abstract, are fairly disturbing. Inevitably this will incense those on the other side of the issue but there is much to be learned here (about animal behavior if nothing else). A unique effort that is to be applauded. Grades 3-6. --Daniel Kraus

"This is a powerful and important book. Farm animals have emotions similar to our pets and this is conveyed in Roth's enchanting illustrations. It will make children and their parents think. But it will not lead to nightmares, rather respect and compassion for the creatures whose wellbeing is in our hands." Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace "A refreshing, sympathetic, and attractive book that children are smart enough to understand, embrace and grow up a little by reading." Ingrid Newkirk, founder, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) "Ruby Roth has done us all a great service. If your children are vegetarians, or have friends who are, or are simply interested in why people might be vegetarians, this is the book for them!" John Robbins, bestselling author of The Food Revolution, Diet For A New America "Where adults are more firmly entrenched in their ways, children need only the slightest insights and guidance, and off they soar into the direction of a more conscious and kind way of living. This book will help to create the much needed healers and leaders of tomorrow." Kathy Freston, NY Times bestselling author of Quantum Wellness "Like many people, I knew as a child that I didn't want to eat animals. That's Why We Don't Eat Animals would have offered me the guidance and inspiration I needed to understand those instincts. This book is a must-have for anyone who loves animals." Alicia Silverstone, actress, animal-rights activist "In a time when we are all working to go green, I am thrilled that That's Why We Don't Eat Animals makes the connection between food and the environment, inspiring children to be aware and involved." Ed Begley, actor, activist "Stunning artwork, meaningful content, and a message that will inspire-this book is a must-read for every child." Rory Freedman, NY Times bestselling author of Skinny Bitch "Roth beautifully illustrates why we all love animals when we get the chance to experience their families

and personalities. That's Why We Don't Eat Animals is a book I recommend to all parents and children.

•David Wolfe, author of The Sunfood Diet Success System, founder of SunFood "This book captures the imagination with its illustrations that subtly helps children understand the ancient teachings that animals have souls. Animals are our friends and we do not eat our friends. In this understanding it helps us create a more compassionate world."

•Gabriel Cousens, M.D. author of Conscious Eating, and Spiritual Nutrition "Declaring that 'All animals deserve the care and protection we give our pets,' newcomer Roth takes the vegetarian/vegan cause to young readers. Highly stylized illustrations against white backdrops depict angular caricatures of farm animals. Concluding with a list of tips for action around vegetarian/vegan ideals, this book is sure to raise awareness and questions."

•Publishers Weekly "A courageous stab at a serious topic inherently hinted at through the anthropomorphizing of animals so prevalent in children's books. By contrasting animal behavior in the wild with that of their counterparts in farms or factories, Roth makes a stark case that by harvesting sentient beings we are stripping them of their rights and natural desires. Inevitably this will book incense those on the other side of the issue but there is much to be learned here (about animal behavior if nothing else). A unique effort that is to be applauded."

•Booklist "This book successfully tackles the tough subject [of veganism] with grace and clarity. This is a great addition to any compassionate kid's library and will make a wonderful gift for any parents in your life who want to talk to their kids about animals but need a little help getting started."

•PETA Living "That's Why We Don't Eat Animals succeeds in raising awareness about where our food comes from and how our food choices affect other creatures and the environment. Roth touches on the conditions animals raised on factory farms endure but she doesn't get overly graphic|That's Why We Don't Eat Animals nicely connected the dots between how humans treat animals and the impact our species has on the planet as a whole, with the basic premise being that a more enlightened attitude toward our food sources (of course, ideally that would mean becoming vegetarian) translates into a healthier planet."

•Wired "Turkeys dance and grieve together; they blush and fly to the treetops when the moon comes out. In factory farms they have no freedom and are made too fat to fly."

•Kirkus "The artwork is bright and enchanting...the message is clear, simple, and compassionate."

•Change.org "If each parent read this book to their child, I'm certain more children would consider becoming vegetarian."

•Vegetarian Journal "That's Why We Don't Eat Animals is an elegantly written, beautifully illustrated children's book about the rationale for vegetarianism. [Roth] uses heartfelt,

emotionally resonant language and art design to contrast the life lived by animals in the wild with the existence of animals in the factory farming system. This is a children's book with large ambitions...If the coming generations are going to strive for a more sustainable approach to filling their dining room tables, *That's Why We Don't Eat Animals* should certainly be in their bookcases.

• L.A. Yoga "You can never be too young to join the fight against cruelty, and Roth's book looks like a great tool to help teach the younger generation about what's happening on factory farms."

• This Just In, VegNews blog "An American teacher, writer and artist, Roth has come up with an innovative and somewhat controversial solution for helping children foster compassion towards animals-tell them the truth. *That's Why We Don't Eat Animals: A Book About Vegans, Vegetarians, and All Living Things* is the first book of its kind targeted toward young people. A candid, but gentle book that discusses what are normally considered taboo subjects for children, such as factory farming, battery hen cages, overfishing, habitat erosion, rainforest health and endangered species in relation to food."

• Green Muze "The illustrations are fantastic, and the message is spot on."

• Vegan Dad blog "The text does a fine job of explaining this potentially emotional issue without being too fraught with horrifying detail. Ruby Roth is a talented illustrator and author who has written a gently informative children's book that will be indispensable to thoughtful families everywhere. I am so grateful to her for making that inevitable talk a little bit easier."

• Your Vegan Mom "That's Why We Don't Eat Animals makes the case for both vegetarianism and veganism with gorgeous artwork and a clear, firm stance about the needs of animals and the peril to the greater environment."

• Vegan Future blog "[That's Why We Don't Eat Animals] makes a sound, green argument for reducing animal consumption as well as eliminating factory farms. It offers another perspective that is missing from children's sections in libraries. It is a pleasure to find such a well-done book on the subject."

• Kids Lit blog "Though this book tackles a difficult subject for younger children, it does so well. This is a good book for vegetarian families or parents who are raising their kids veggie and want a way to explain it to them. Without getting too graphic (animals in confined cages are as dark as it gets), it explores basic issues of factory farming and discusses its effects on the environment. Roth is able to get her point across without becoming too preachy or delving into topics that aren't age-appropriate."

• The Kids' Book Corner blog "Wonderfully illustrated and inspiring for children of all ages, author Ruby Roth has tackled the complex moral and ethical issue of choosing to be a vegetarian, distilling it into a compassionate and informative snapshot of the emotional lives of animals in their natural state. *That's Why We*

Don't Eat Animals is a timely reminder to look inside our hearts and reconsider the choices we make-and their impact on our fellow creatures and the well-being of the planet.

•New Consciousness Review "For any parent looking for a children's book to introduce some arguments on choosing the vegetarian lifestyle, That's Why We Don't Eat Animals is a great start.

•Vegetarian Star "[That's Why We Don't Eat Animals] was not grotesque or militant in any way|just straightforward about the reality of eating animals and what that means for the animals and the planet

Thumbs up to Ruby Roth, That's Why We Don't Eat Animals rocks!

•Nature Moms "That's Why We Don't Eat Animals is quickly becoming a must-have book!

•Ecorazzi "Each animal on a farm is contrasted with the animal in its natural, social habitat through entertaining drawings

Research for the book was collected from zoologists, animal behaviorists, neuropsychiatrists, pet therapy programs, oceanographers, farmers and animal sanctuaries

•The Washington Times "It is good to finally have a book that portrays the philosophy of veganism as a reasoned, principled belief and not as a fickle food choice.

•New Age Journal "The text confronts kids head-on with questions that will get them thinking

•Heeb "That's Why We Don't Eat Animals] is heirloom quality and destined to be read over and over again.

•Green Baby NYC "This beautifully illustrated book explains simply and gently why so many families have decided to leave meat off the menu

The pages are filled with gorgeous color, top notch drawings, and a vast array of unforgettable critters. Any child being raised in a vegetarian home will be able to comfortably understand why their family isn't lined up at the McDonald's drive thru or serving turkey come Thanksgiving.

•dkMommySpot "[That's Why We Don't Eat Animals is] the first book geared to children to address the humanitarian aspects of a plant-based diet.

•Huffington Post "[Ruby Roth's] stunning artwork mesmerizes readers|this book is sure to be a wonderful conversation starter between children and their adult counterparts for many story times to come.

•VegBooks "Get this book! Ruby Roth's That's Why We Don't Eat Animals is quickly gaining acclaim and recognition|a welcome addition to the vegetarian and vegan landscape.

•LifeTips.com "The book illustrates in a gentle yet powerful way, the reasons why some Earthlings choose not to eat meat. It is a beautiful book about

compassion. **•Mother Rising** “The graphics are amazing| this book is not only a great tool for teaching your kids why they are vegetarian or vegan but also to teach adults and others why it is important not to eat meat. **•Cooking for a Vegan Lover** “If you are planning on raising a vegetarian child who will be well-prepared to explain his or her beliefs to inquiring peers, teachers, and friends, *That’s Why We Don’t Eat Animals* is a great start| The animals are charmingly drawn in a caricaturist, almost geometric style, and their environments are depicted with bright or dark colors, depending on their living conditions. The vocabulary is simple and straightforward, doesn’t get too dark or complicated for children, and avoids a preachy, overbearing tone in favor of a sensitive, informative one. **•Feminist Review** “Roth’s artistry brings the story to life through color and rigid form. **•Farmbrarian** “Ruby’s beautiful illustrations are colorful and whimsical, and they have a way of keeping my daughter’s eyes glued to the page! ... This is by far the most gentle, yet eye opening, animal rights book available for our youngest generation! **•The Vegan Mom** “[*That’s Why We Don’t Eat Animals* is] a delightful, beautifully illustrated guide to some of the world’s most pressing topics from health to environment to animal protection for children ages 4-10. **•Elephant Journal** “Roth created her new illustrated book, *That’s Why We Don’t Eat Animals*, for elementary school aged children, exploring topics such as factory farming, overfishing and rainforest destruction in a manner that is truthful, yet age-appropriate. **•Compassionate Living Magazine** “Roth gently discusses what is wrong with the way we raise food| If each parent read this book to their child, I’m certain more children would consider becoming vegetarian. **•Vegetarian Resource Group** “A book written for children and their families, *That’s Why We Don’t Eat Animals* is just as vital an addition to the veg-friendly library as John Robbin’s *The Food Revolution* or Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Eating Animals*, because its simple, yet profound message that the animals of this world have as much a desire to live and love their families as we do is enough to become a seed of change for good in the hearts of children and grown-ups alike. I’ve never seen a book that handles the subject of factory farming, overfishing, and the destruction of our fellow animals and planet so delicately. **•Kiss Me, I’m Vegan** “I recently began my search for a simple, clear children’s book about vegetarianism. I wanted something more than a story about an unrealistic, cartoon animal, as well as a story that touched on the environment and American factory farms| I was really happy to find *That’s Why We Don’t Eat Animals* by Ruby Roth. **•Erin, MN Veggie Mama** “*That’s Why We*

Don't Eat Animals is a milestone in children's literature.

•Vegetarians in Paradise•“Ruby’s illustrations are just superb. She has an abstract style and the animals are almost, but not quite, painted in caricature. I commend her for making a visually pleasing book while not shying away from the realities of animal use. That’s Why We Don’t Eat Animals covers just about every aspect of animal exploitation, and does it in a sensitive way that breaks the awful truth to our children as easily as possible.” •Raw on \$10 a Day (or Less!)“A gorgeously illustrated children’s book that we are just mad for.” •The GirlieGirl Army

I bought this book because I wanted a child friendly book for my 5 yr old to discuss the reasons we choose to be vegetarian. The illustrations are well done, though a little dark sometimes. I have very honest age appropriate discussions with my child, but debated reading this to her at first. I cringed at the pic of turkeys stuffed into dirty cages with wounds. However, I read it to her and had a really beautiful talk with her about how animals must feel on farms like the ones in the pictures. The words were beautiful and thoughtful, though my child probably won’t absorb them (for slightly older children) for a few yrs. There’s a large emphasis on animals families that made the book appealing to me.

I bought this for my three-year old, but he is emotionally not ready for this. But, he is a child that was mortified by a baby-einstein video when the duck puppet fell down. The book puts approximately equal weight on the positive (happy things the animals do in their natural environ) and the negative (poor conditions of factory farming). The book includes non-graphic, but sad images of animals in factory-farm conditions such as tiny, cramped cages. This would devastate my child at his current age, but I think as he gets older, he’ll mature into it. In a few years, I’ll show him this book. It’s a simple statement of here’s the animal in nature and what the animal needs and then here’s how the animal is treated in a factory farm.It’s a great idea for older kids. It’s also a good, quality hardcover.

Parents should use good judgment when introducing this book. My son read it when he was 5 at a friend’s house and asked us to purchase a copy. It is educational and tries to tell the truth without sugar-coating it, but know your child and what they are ready for. I would say ages 7+ unless you think your child is emotionally ready for it at an earlier age. We do love this book, and the illustrations are unique. But it is not a light subject.

Thank you for writing a truthful children's book. There are enough fairy tale books out there with happy animals on perfect farms, however those do not exist in this world except animal sanctuaries. Every farm that raises animals for food are considered commodities and if not the person raising them could not bare to send them off to slaughter. This book is straight forward and tells the truth, the reality we live in. We don't give kids enough credit to handle the truth, sugarcoating reality is wrong, kids have compassion and should be able to know what is going on and decide. I would recommend this book to every parent!

Very good book. Although the beginning of the book is a bit long and deep for children, I enjoy attempting to read it to my toddler and see if I can keep her attention. As a vegan father I find this book to be very valuable.

This book is adorable and sad at the same time. I read it to my son who loves animals. I don't believe in lying or creating a cognitive dissonance about what meat actual is. Beef = cow body and milk = cow breast milk. He has the information and can make his own choices based on facts. I love that.

Being a vegetarian, I am so impressed with this book. I do not have children but as soon as I read the description I new I needed this for my collection. An amazing read!

I love how informative this book is. It really opens your eyes, which may be why some people oppose it because it forces them to face the truth. It is a bit graphic, but if you can't handle an animated, less cruel portrayal of what's happening to these animals then maybe you should stop supporting the cruelty.

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