

Against Speciesism

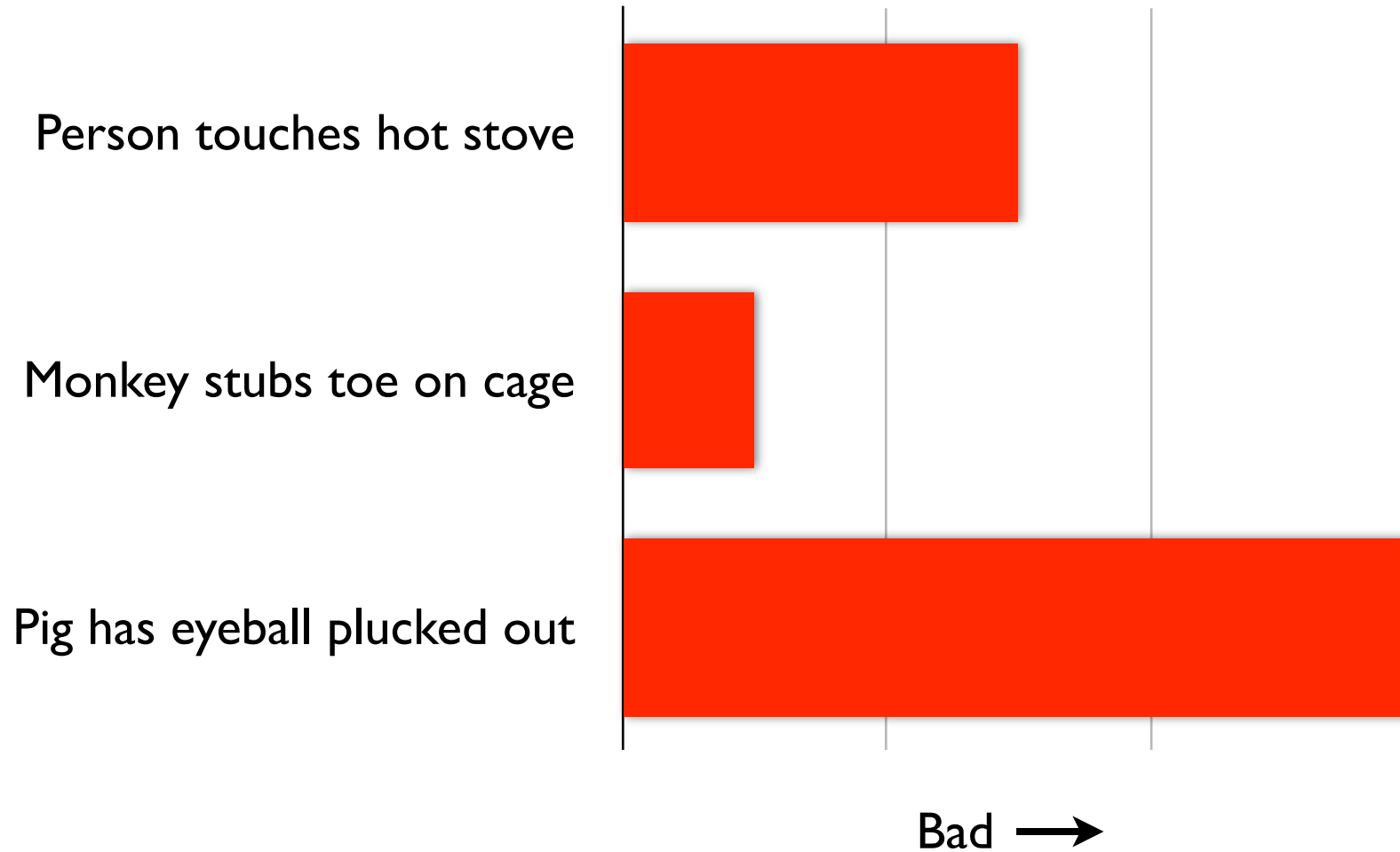
All Animals are Equal

False

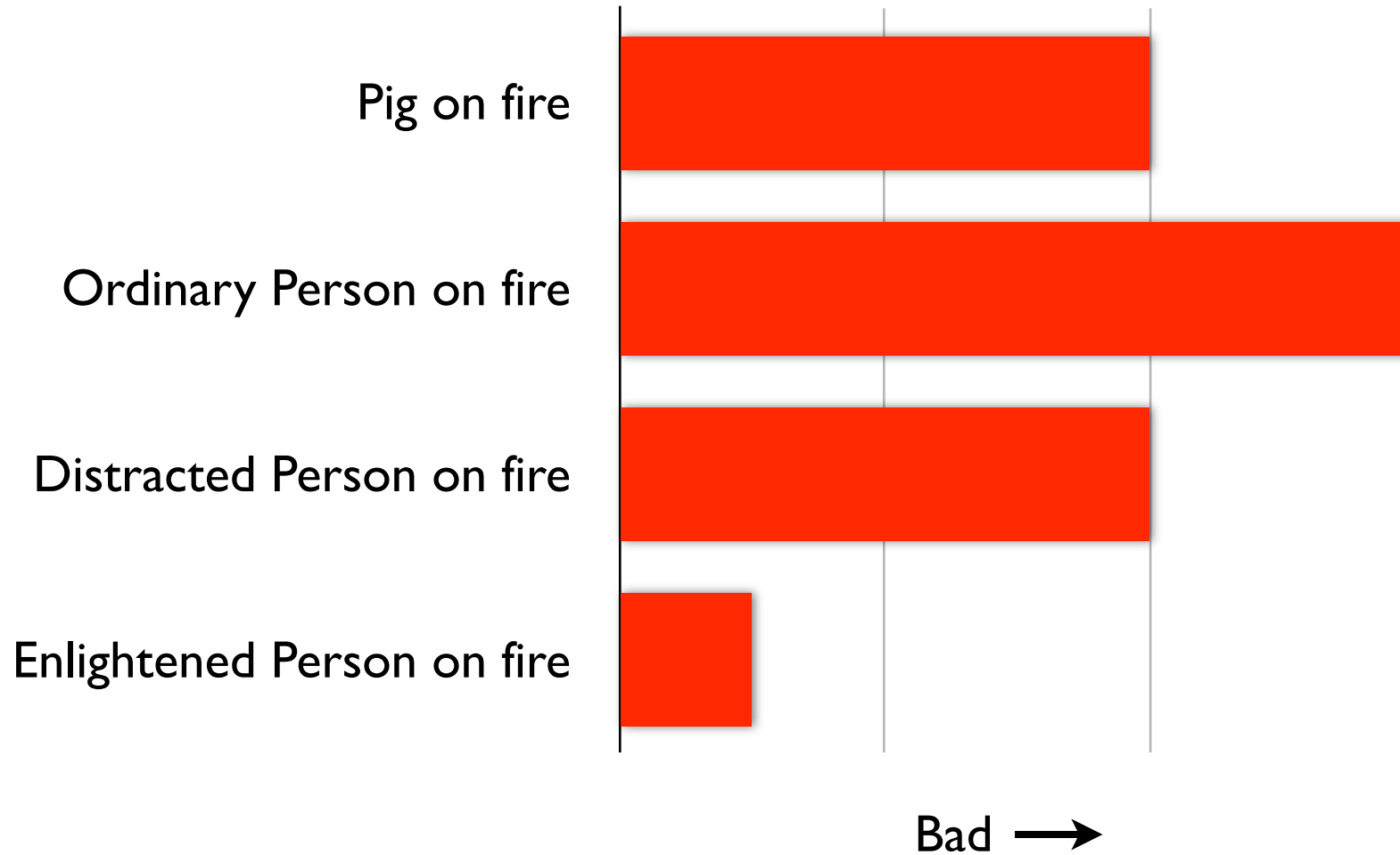
All Suffering is Equal

False

How Bad is It?



How Bad is It?



Equal Amounts of Suffering Have
Equal Moral Significance

True

The Speciesist Challenge

- Find a difference between human and non-human animals that justifies treating the suffering of humans more seriously than the suffering of non-humans.

Attempts to Meet the Challenge

I. Humanness

Attempts to Meet the Challenge

- X** 1. Humanness
- 2. Naturalness

Attempts to Meet the Challenge

X 1. Humanness

X 2. Naturalness

3. Intelligence

Attempts to Meet the Challenge

X 1. Humanness

X 2. Naturalness

X 3. Intelligence

Conclusion:

1. Speciesism (about experience) is immoral.
2. We need to reevaluate our practices involving non-human animals:
 1. Factory farming
 2. Animal testing (cosmetics, pesticides, cleaning agents, medicines, etc.)

Environmental Costs of Farming Animals

- More than 50% of water used in U.S. is used to raise animals for food.
- 2,500 gallons of H₂O needed to produce 1 pound of meat vs. 25 gallons to produce 1 pound of wheat.
- A vegetarian diet requires 300 gallons of water per day vs. 4,000 gallons for a meat-based diet.
- Farming animals is the largest source of water pollution in the U.S.
- Animals raised for food produce 130 times the excrement of the entire human population (87,000 pounds per second).
- More than 1/3 of all fuel burned in U.S. is used to raise animals for food.
- Producing a single hamburger patty requires (i) enough fuel required to drive a small car 20 miles and (ii) enough water for 17 showers.
- 1 acre of trees per year are destroyed to support a single meat-eater's diet.
- More than 50% of the rain forests in S.America have been cleared for cattle ranching; 55 square feet per 1/4 pound of beef produced.
- 80% of corn, 95% of oats, grown in U.S. is used to feed livestock.
- World's cattle alone consume enough calories to sustain 8.7 billion humans.