

1 Table 1a Summary of multivariate testing for the effects of ethical idealism, ethical relativism, gender and age on public attitudes toward animals (measured by Animal
 2 Attitude Scale and Animal Issue Scale)
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	Idealism (I)		Relativism(R)		Gender (G)		Age (A)		I× G		R× G		R×A		G×A		I×R×A		R×G×A	
	F	Probabi lity	F	Probabi lity	F	Probabi lity	F	Probabi lity	F	Probabi lity	F	Probabi lity	F	Probabi lity	F	Probabi lity	F	Probabi lity	F	Probabi lity
AAS	9.36	<0.01	5.42	0.02	0.37	0.55	10.28	<0.01	0.08	0.77	1.58	0.21	0.65	0.53	1.11	0.33	0.02	0.98	2.96	0.05
AIS	6.58	0.01	16.02	<0.01	0.42	0.52	13.90	<0.01	0.85	0.36	2.64	0.11	3.23	0.04	0.78	0.46	1.36	0.26	3.26	0.04
1	0.92	0.34	7.84	<0.01	0.86	0.35	7.82	<0.01	0.20	0.65	0.69	0.41	1.46	0.23	0.29	0.75	0.59	0.55	0.83	0.44
2	0.05	0.83	23.93	<0.01	0.30	0.58	7.58	<0.01	1.69	0.19	1.59	0.21	4.67	0.01	0.38	0.68	0.06	0.95	2.44	0.09
3	7.86	<0.01	8.35	<0.01	0.48	0.49	10.51	<0.01	0.18	0.67	6.36	0.01	4.96	<0.01	0.39	0.68	1.38	0.25	4.71	<0.01
4	18.57	<0.01	4.59	0.03	0.49	0.49	2.44	0.09	2.07	0.15	0.17	0.68	2.10	0.12	0.06	0.94	3.17	0.04	1.22	0.30
5	0.08	0.77	1.84	0.18	0.06	0.81	8.72	<0.01	0.71	0.40	0.62	0.43	0.12	0.88	0.74	0.48	0.79	0.46	3.21	0.04
6	1.00	0.32	10.21	<0.01	0.77	0.38	6.79	<0.01	0.35	0.55	2.20	0.14	1.71	0.18	3.22	0.04	1.43	0.24	0.83	0.44
7	10.27	<0.01	4.11	0.04	0.32	0.57	14.16	<0.01	0.32	0.57	0.87	0.35	1.66	0.19	1.21	0.30	0.54	0.58	1.93	0.15
8	7.93	<0.01	7.12	<0.01	1.03	0.31	1.93	0.15	5.06	0.03	0.42	0.52	2.22	0.11	1.75	0.17	0.96	0.38	1.94	0.15

4 Note: df (I) = 1; df (R) = 1; df (G) = 1; df (A) = 2; df (I×G) = 1; df (R×G) = 1; df (R×A) = 2; df (G×A) = 2; df (I×R×A) = 2; df (R×G×A) = 2. The two-way (I×R, I×A), three-way (I×R×G,
 5 I×G×A) and four-way (I×R×G×A) interactions were not significant at all and removed from the final analyses. Animal Attitude Scale is abbreviated as AAS while Animal Issue Scale is
 6 abbreviated as AIS. The numbers of 1-8 represent the eight sections of AIS: 1-use of animals, 2-animal integrity destruction, 3-killing animals, 4-deprive animal welfare, 5-experimentation on
 7 animals, 6-changes in animal genotypes, 7-harm animals for environment and 8-harm animals for social issues.
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10 Table 1b Attitudes toward animals (measured by Animal Issue Scale) in different gender , age groups and ethical positions of Chinese people

	19-44 years				45-59 years				60 years and older			
	Exceptionists	Subjectivists	Absolutists	Situationists	Exceptionists	Subjectivists	Absolutists	Situationists	Exceptionists	Subjectivists	Absolutists	Situationists
Male												
AAS (20-100)	63.89±6.70	60.85±6.28	66.70±9.24	64.45±6.99	60.96±6.64	61.20±3.80	64.00±11.59	62.29±7.76	54.38±5.63	59.00±6.25	65.60±9.80	60.33±7.48
AIS (43-215)	135.42±16.82	132.65±19.16	144.73±17.40	136.62±18.01	128.12±15.87	125.07±15.51	136.77±19.43	137.24±16.90	121.38±7.09	115.67±19.40	137.93±13.61	119.78±30.19
1 (5-25)	10.95±2.14	10.33±2.42	10.57±2.54	10.20±2.28	10.00±1.80	9.07±1.58	10.15±2.41	9.12±2.47	9.50±1.31	9.67±2.08	9.87±1.92	8.56±2.56
2 (6-30)	18.39±2.55	17.44±2.98	18.90±3.07	17.33±3.70	16.68±2.58	16.67±3.33	17.81±4.09	16.12±4.39	16.88±2.42	14.00±3.46	18.27±2.71	14.78±4.66
3 (5-25)	16.45±3.00	16.38±3.29	18.43±2.93	17.47±3.13	15.52±2.69	16.00±2.54	16.85±3.31	18.41±3.52	14.13±2.17	14.33±2.31	16.47±3.66	14.22±3.87
4 (5-25)	19.18±3.46	19.42±3.30	22.07±2.23	21.33±3.06	18.64±3.80	18.60±3.02	21.54±2.73	21.00±1.70	18.38±1.69	17.33±2.52	22.33±2.32	19.56±5.73
5 (5-25)	14.08±2.65	13.08±3.37	13.73±3.31	12.87±2.99	12.76±2.37	12.20±2.96	12.23±2.70	13.53±3.47	11.63±2.13	13.00±2.65	12.33±1.84	10.56±2.79
6 (5-25)	15.03±2.87	14.85±4.18	16.03±4.12	14.02±3.57	15.08±3.54	14.20±3.17	14.38±3.72	14.82±3.73	14.63±2.07	13.00±1.73	15.07±4.64	13.78±4.60
7 (6-30)	20.58±2.85	20.42±3.72	22.20±3.34	21.48±3.92	18.80±3.08	18.87±4.16	21.31±3.52	21.12±3.89	17.25±1.04	16.33±3.22	19.93±3.35	18.33±5.45
8 (6-30)	20.76±3.02	20.73±3.61	22.80±3.10	21.92±3.54	20.64±3.43	19.47±3.38	22.50±3.31	23.12±3.31	19.00±2.07	18.00±3.00	23.67±1.84	20.00±5.45
Female												
AAS (20-100)	62.81±5.05	63.42±7.29	66.57±10.30	65.58±7.35	62.00±8.00	56.63±7.05	64.07±6.23	58.67±9.63	62.25±6.45	51.00±	62.33±12.26	60.00±0.00
AIS (43-215)	137.31±15.15	136.55±14.00	144.83±16.99	143.50±20.47	139.18±12.73	117.88±18.97	135.40±13.30	129.20±20.32	144.00±11.37	108.00±	139.33±16.98	116.50±4.95
1 (5-25)	11.33±2.07	10.81±2.37	10.61±2.48	10.78±2.57	11.00±1.87	10.50±3.16	10.33±2.02	9.07±2.84	11.75±1.71	7.00±	9.67±2.73	9.00±1.41
2 (6-30)	18.52±2.34	17.65±2.78	18.13±3.73	18.42±3.48	19.41±2.37	15.63±2.00	18.07±4.01	17.07±3.65	20.25±4.27	14.00±	17.83±1.94	11.50±0.71
3 (5-25)	17.19±2.67	17.45±2.99	18.39±3.22	18.64±3.28	17.41±2.58	15.63±2.77	17.27±2.49	17.47±3.89	19.25±4.03	9.00±	17.33±3.78	13.50±2.12
4 (5-25)	18.96±3.25	20.68±3.00	22.35±2.64	21.11±3.64	20.59±2.03	17.13±4.42	21.47±2.48	21.13±3.68	20.25±1.26	20.00±	21.67±1.97	18.00±4.24
5 (5-25)	14.27±2.13	13.29±2.71	13.52±4.53	14.33±3.09	14.18±2.43	10.63±1.30	12.47±3.38	12.00±3.72	12.75±2.99	10.00±	12.33±3.83	13.50±2.12
6 (5-25)	15.81±3.11	14.00±3.18	16.35±3.08	15.64±3.39	14.59±3.10	12.13±2.36	12.60±3.91	13.27±4.59	15.50±1.73	10.00±	17.33±4.18	12.00±4.24
7 (6-30)	20.25±3.31	21.26±3.60	22.43±3.13	22.08±4.22	19.88±2.83	17.00±3.16	21.00±3.53	19.53±3.54	20.50±1.92	17.00±	20.83±3.66	18.50±0.71
8 (6-30)	20.98±3.28	21.42±2.95	23.04±3.18	22.50±3.72	22.12±2.03	19.25±4.71	22.20±3.12	19.67±4.10	23.75±3.59	21.00±	22.33±2.73	20.50±3.54

11 Note: respondents were divided into 3 age groups, which was based on the standards that enacted by the world health organization in 2010. High values indicate low levels of acceptance.
 12 Animal Attitude Scale is abbreviated as AAS while Animal Issue Scale is abbreviated as AIS. The numbers of 1-8 represent the eight sections of AIS: 1-use of animals, 2-animal integrity
 13 destruction, 3-killing animals, 4-deprive animal welfare, 5-experimentation on animals, 6-changes in animal genotypes, 7-harm animals for environment and 8-harm animals for social issues.

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