Dear Sam:

I know this article (notated copy attached) is a translation of a Hebrew language article so you may have defined limits in the amount of energy you can devote to get it into proper shape for JMB. I do understand and worry a bit you may have such limits; I am trying to work within the limits that I envision. That said, the paper needs to be shaped better for JMB to publish it. And you would get no argument from me if you include more of your own past work -- we also have no problem with biographical scientific information. So, yes, I admit it: I loved your dog and cat stories. However ....

First, I think you should better articulate your supposition that higher processes in non-human animals connect with sensations of pain. I have, incidentally asked several physiological psychologists and they say they do not pay too much attention to the subjective comparisons of pain. Have I made a biased sampling perhaps? All in all, we’d like to read a pointed statement as to the (perhaps) rather obvious implications of your investigations and posits.

Second, in terms of organization, grammar, syntax, and overall strength of discourse, we still are having the most difficulty with your introductory paragraphs. The approaches are actually confusing per the manner in which you have introduced the stances.  I suggest merely writing what the decreasing and increasing approaches are and cite the respective authors -- right now they are obscured by the first paragraph (and the first sentences of the second paragraph). Be more direct. Plus, readers should not feel equivocal as to why they need to know the relative degree of pain suffering in non-human animals versus humans, i.e., what is the philosophical utility of this knowledge etc.

As a side note, we do not recommend ending paragraphs or sections with a long quotes. Of course, technically it is not in violation of any manual, but transition worsens; and in terms of elegance, we always recommend to avoid this tactic. Page 6: how did the dog know you would go to the correct floor as this was the first time he followed you?

Page 8, lines 9-12: if the individual is currently in the pain state, she cannot avoid entering into it. Please fix syntax.

Page 9: starting this page you jump from illogical to insanity and you use war as an example. I do not think using war here is sound strategy. Everyday examples are better. Illogical thought is not necessarily insanity.

Page 11, second paragraph: here it seems you are stating that irrational behavior is actually enabled by more sophisticated higher cognitive processes. Is this your claim?

For the diagrams, please begin each figure legend with the legend as you now have it, but end the legends with a parenthetical statement of permission granted by copyright holder. Please refer to any APA journal to see the format. All figure citations should be clearly referenced under the figures and in reference list fully.

That is all I have to say for the present time. As I suggested in my first letter, the revision will require effort.

Sincerely,

Ray

Raymond Russ, Editor

Journal of Mind and Behavior

Department of Psychology

University of Maine

Orono, Maine 04469-5742/USA