Key Moral Statements

- In 300 BC, Galen of Pergamum catalogued experiments performed by Alexandrian physicians, noting that all other animals were incapable of rationality because they possessed no mind. This was the basis of modern vivisectionists' mechanistic philosophy, which extrapolated the results to humans.

- William Harvey demonstrated the circulation of blood using the beast-machine, which provided the first physiological investigation showing the value of vivisection for comparative anatomy.

- In the 18th century, the beginnings of the theory of utilitarianism were shaped by the notion that animals ought to be protected for their own sake. Whether an animal had a soul was debated, but the anthropocentric world view was being challenged. The sphere of humans was extended to include all animals, starting with Humphrey Primatt.

- Humphrey Primatt founded the UK Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1824. His efforts were part of a broader movement where cruel scientific procedures were regulated. By 1905, 40% of UK medicinal treatments were based on data from vivisection, decreasing to 10% by 1980.

- In 1847, Crawford Long discovered the anaesthetic properties of ether. This led to a significant decrease in pain during surgeries, which was further improved in 1860 with the introduction of local anaesthesia by William Morton.

- Charles Darwin's publication of The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals in 1872 set the stage for the advancement of science and the study of human and animal emotions. This was further supported by the Continuous lobbying by anti-vivisection societies, which resulted in the Second Royal Commission on Vivisection.

- In 1909, Charles Best isolated insulin, which was essential for the treatment of diabetes.

- The UK House of Commons was presented with a Bill aimed at regulating all experimentation in 1913. However, due to medical advances, this Bill was considered unnecessary.

- The ethical values and moral statements continue to evolve, and the key moral statements are a testament to the ongoing debate and advancements in scientific ethics.