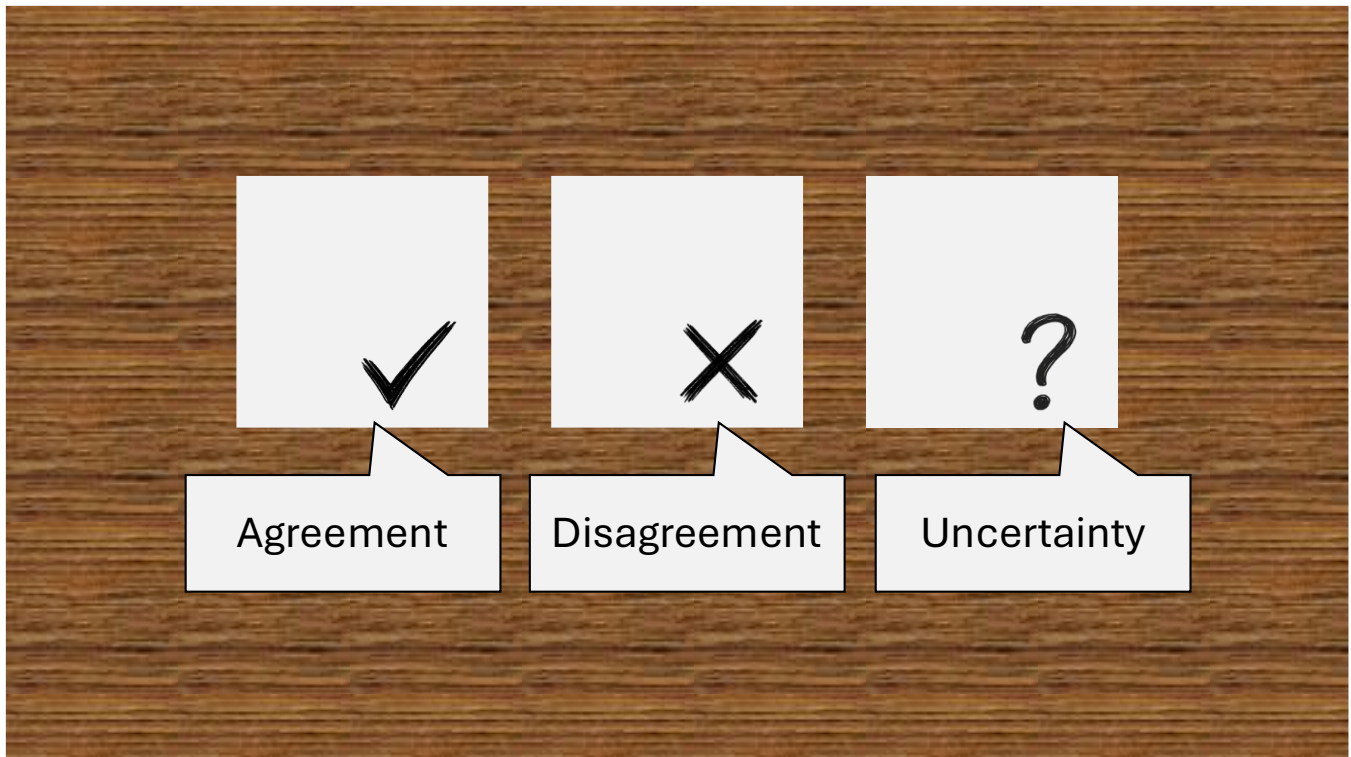


REASONATE REFLECTING

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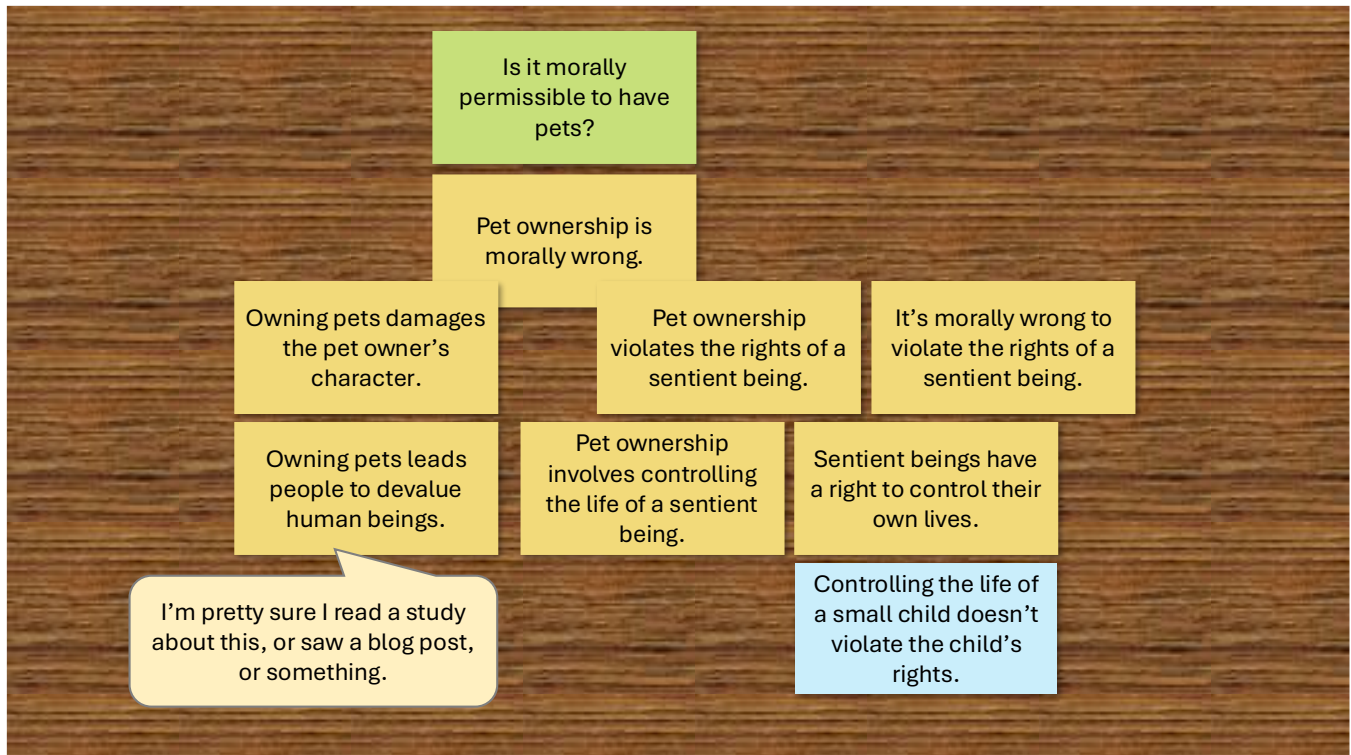
At any point in a dialogue, players may offer a reflection to highlight points of agreement, disagreement, or uncertainty.



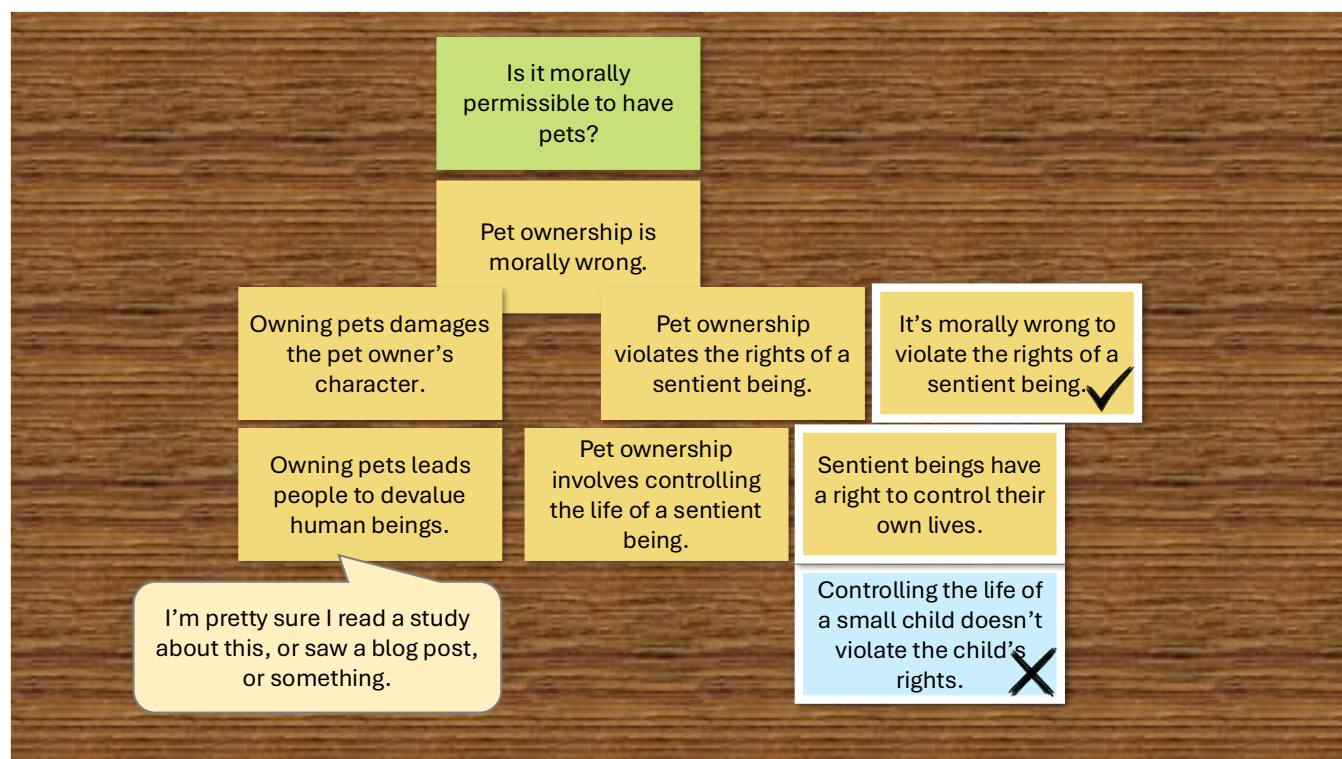
If all participants agree that a claim is true, they can mark that claim with a check.

If participants disagree about the truth of a claim, they can mark that claim with an X.

If participants aren't sure about the truth of a claim, they can mark that claim with a question mark.



For instance, let's consider the reasoning that emerged when we discussed requests.

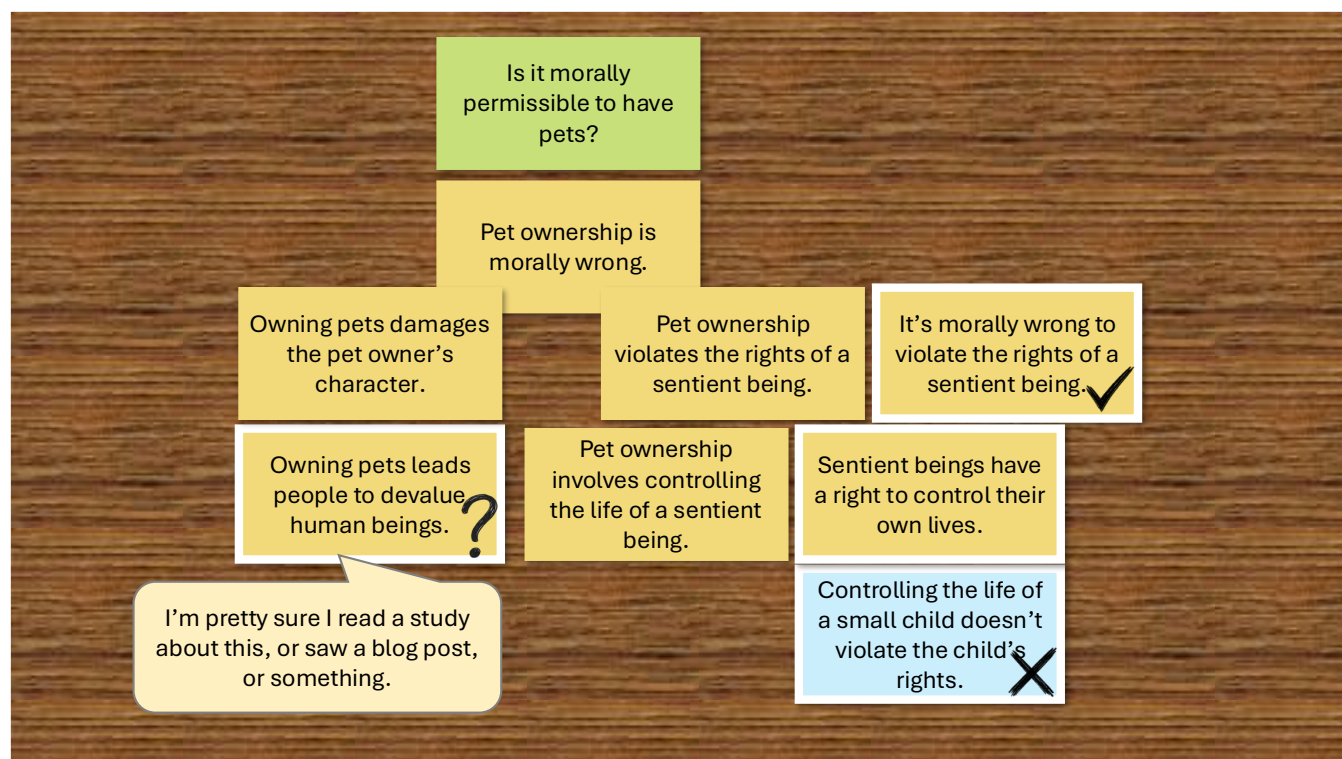


PRO's claim that it's morally wrong to violate the rights of a sentient being and the claim that sentient beings have a right to control their own lives resulted from the request that PRO build bridges connecting their claims.

It's not unusual for people to leave such bridging claims unstated, but it can be *incredibly* useful to fill them in because it can allow everyone to appreciate the points of agreement and disagreement.

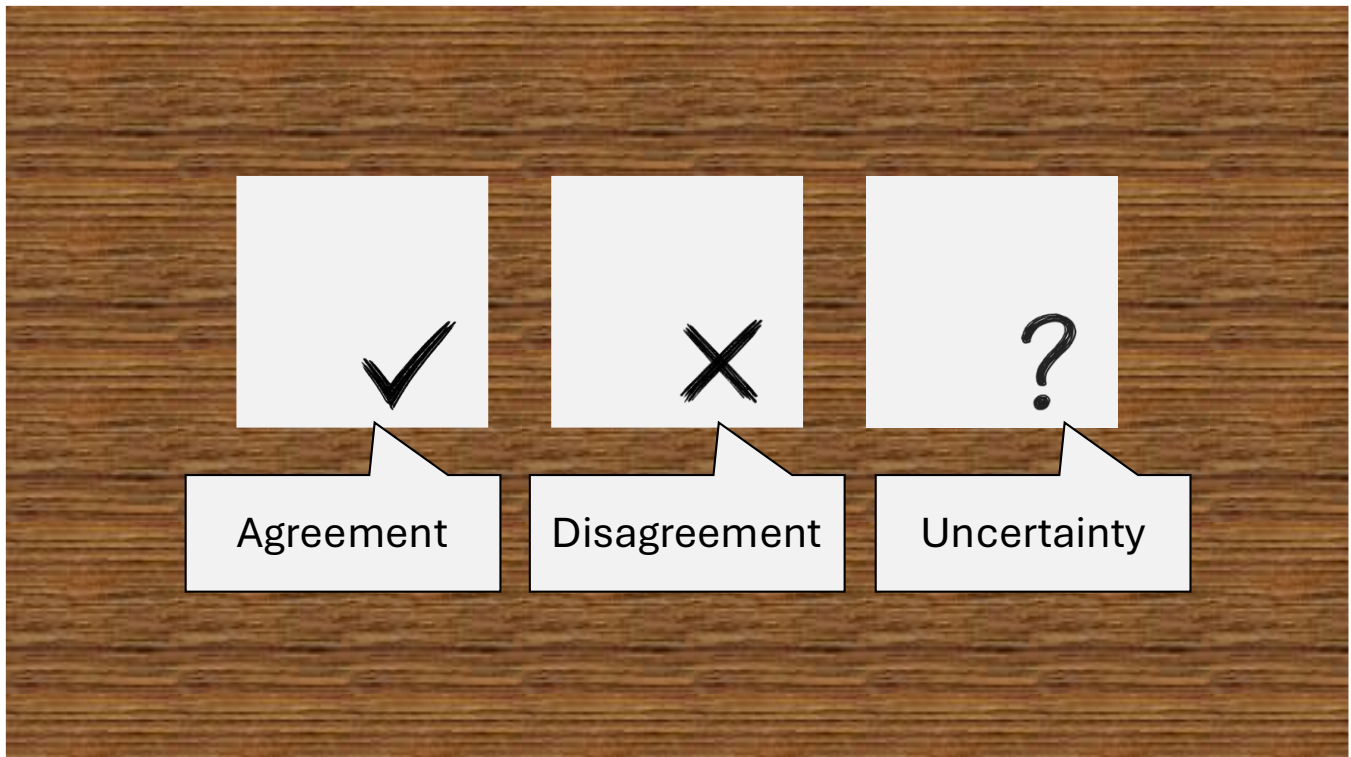
Here, PRO and CON might simply disagree about the extent to which controlling the life of a small child violates the child's rights. If they don't want to examine the reasoning for or against that claim – perhaps because they don't have time or don't think it would be productive – they can note the point of disagreement by marking it with an X.

Just as importantly, CON can acknowledge that they *agree* with PRO's bridging claim that it's morally wrong to violate the rights of a sentient being.



Finally, when PRO was asked for a review of the claim that pets leads people to devalue human beings, all PRO could say was that they had read a study or a blog post about the negative effects of pet ownership. In response, players agreed to table this issue and check the facts later.

If players eventually agree that they don't have the time, resources, or energy to investigate that issue, they can record their uncertainty about the claim by putting a question mark on the note.



By noting points of agreement, disagreement, and uncertainty, we can recognize commonalities, acknowledge real differences, and appreciate where the conversation might profitably go next.